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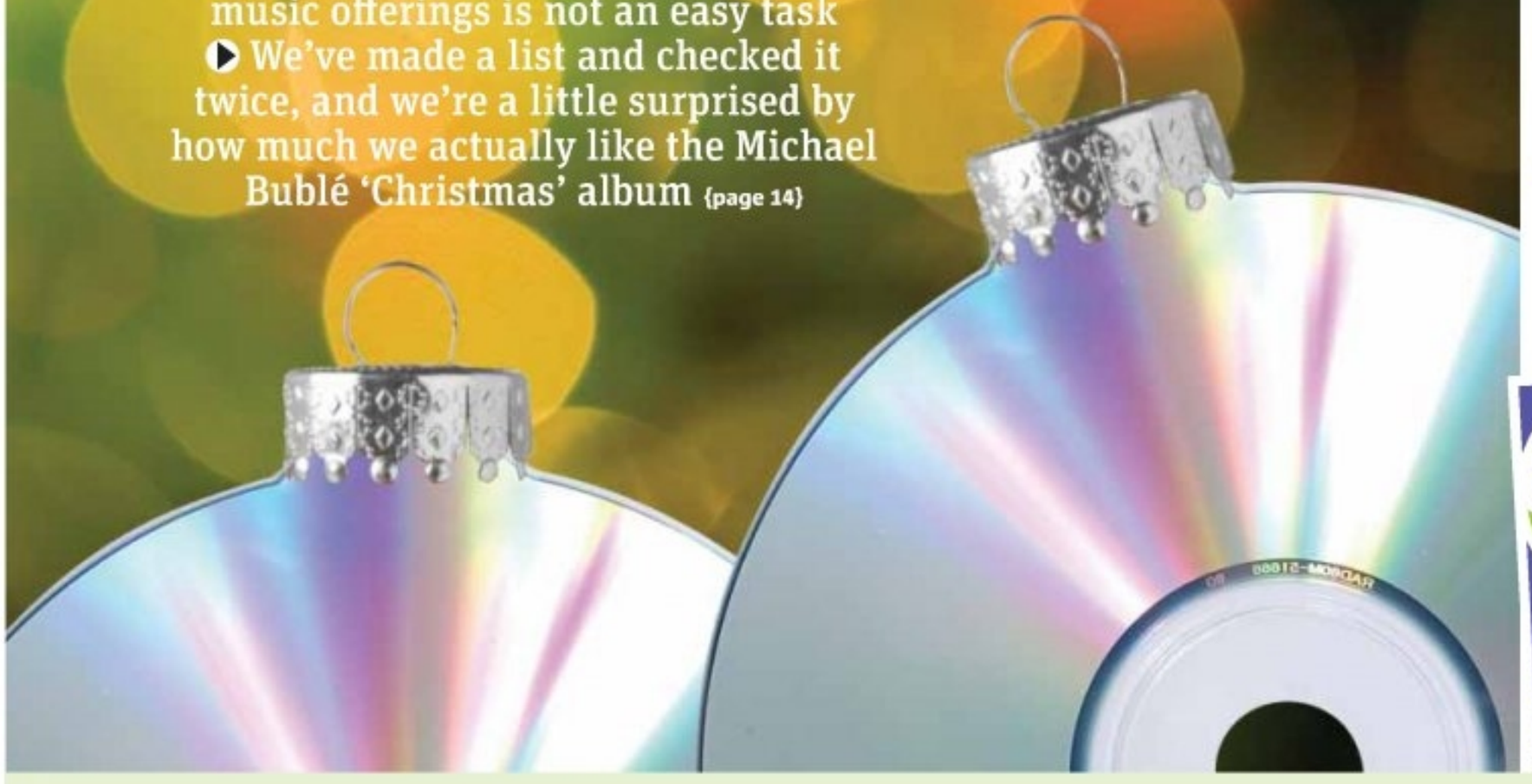
Who's been naughty and who's been nice?

Dashing through this year's holiday music offerings is not an easy task

We've made a list and checked it twice, and we're a little surprised by how much we actually like the Michael Bublé 'Christmas' album {page 14}



FLAG OF US FORCES LOWERED IN IRAQ
NEWS {page 10}

SURE-THING 'SHERLOCK' **FILMS** {page 22}

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1

In the news

Multiple LI killers now suspected

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said he disagrees with Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer's theory that only one person is behind the Long Island serial killings, and that it may be multiple killers behind the 10 murders.

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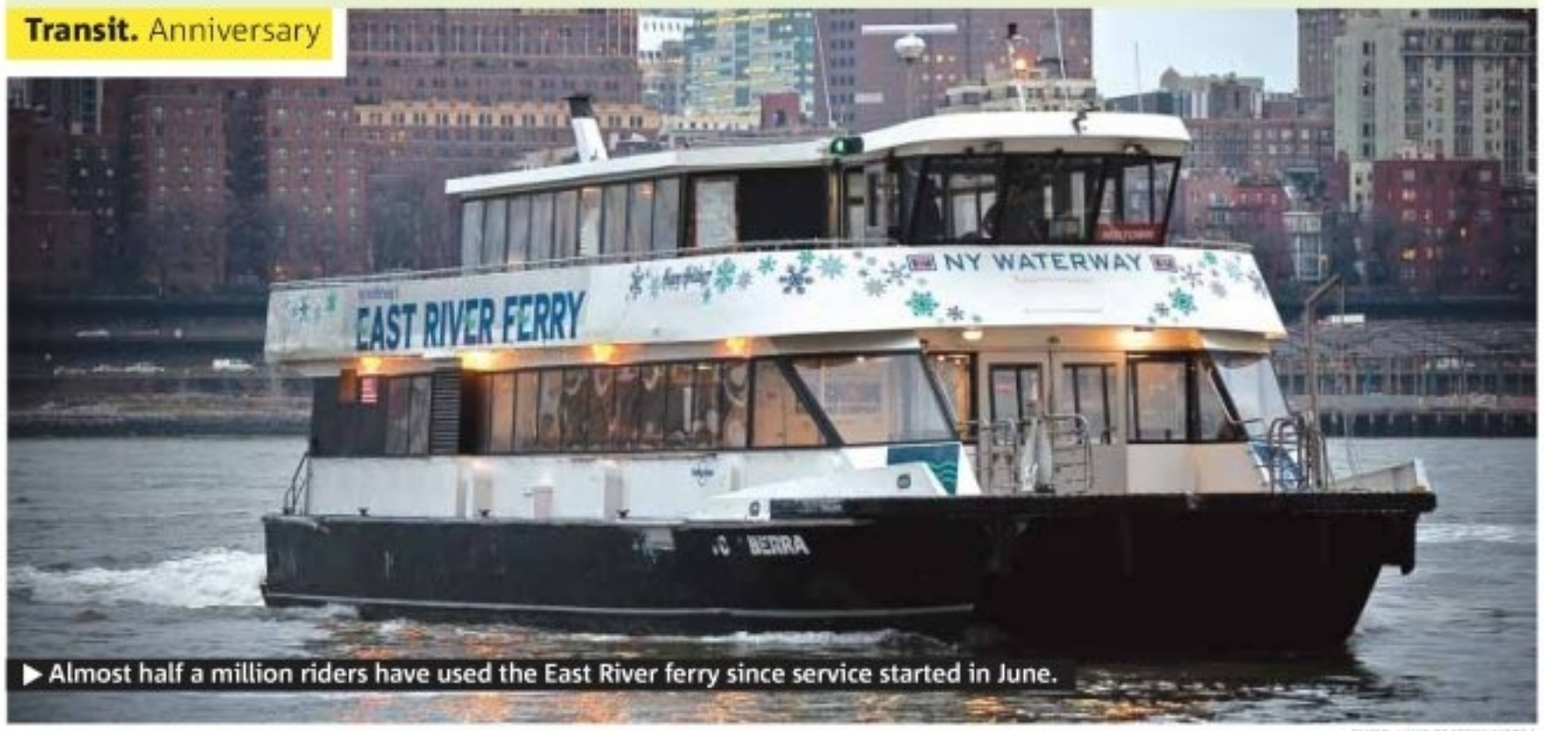
Cable tech encounters bear nap

HOPATCONG, N.J. A Cablevision technician in New Jersey entered a customer's basement for some routine maintenance when he stumbled upon a slumbering black bear Wednesday. The bear had been spotted around the Hopatcong neighborhood, but fled when it saw cable tech Dave Cornine. New Jersey Fish and Game officials later tracked down the 500-pound bear and tranquilized it, and will release it. "I've encountered snakes, bats — all kinds of silly things. This was crazy," Cornine told Patch.

METRO/CG

Transit. Anniversary



▶ Almost half a million riders have used the East River ferry since service started in June.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Ferry, ferry popular

The East River ferry gave riders a free commute from Lower Manhattan to Brooklyn on Thursday to celebrate its six-month anniversary. Ridership exceeded expectations, with nearly 500,000 passengers riding in the ferry's first six months, far above the 409,000 riders predicted for an entire year. METRO/AB

▶ Councilman Rodriguez

Rodriguez makes it into TIME

NEW YORK. A New York City councilman made it into the pages of TIME magazine this week, as part of their cover story about the Person of the Year, the Protester. Rodriguez was arrested during the infamous nighttime police raid at Zuccotti Park on Nov. 15. "I believe that occupying public areas has been a centerpiece of the democratic process of this country," he said. METRO/CB

City teacher accused of rape

QUEENS. A public school teacher was arrested Thursday and charged with sleeping with a 13-year-old female student, according to the Daily News. Charles Oross, a social studies teacher, is accused of carrying on the relationship with the girl for six months. METRO/CB

Elevator repaired hours before death

Transel Elevator made repairs to the lift only hours before Suzanne Hart was killed on it, says city official Dept. of Buildings investigates

The elevator where a woman died Wednesday had undergone repairs just hours before she stepped inside, according to a city official.

Department of Buildings spokesman Tony Sclafani told Metro yesterday that the city opened an investigation into Transel Elevator, which had conducted repairs at the elevator inside Young & Rubicam's office building only hours before Suzanne Hart arrived.

"Workers from Transel were performing electrical maintenance work on the elevator involved in the accident hours before it malfunctioned," Sclafani said. "This work has now become the focus of our investigation."

▶ Suzanne Hart

Hart, 41, was killed after her foot caught in the elevator door and she was dragged up to her death.

Transel performs repairs at elevators across the city, including the Plaza Hotel, according to the company's website.

Sclafani said that the city is requesting a client list from Transel and will send inspectors out to sweep all the elevators serviced by the company in the entire city, checking for problems.

The building where the accident happened, 285 Madison Ave., will be "voluntarily closed" Friday, he said.

Inspectors are checking the 13 elevators in the building, Sclafani said. There are also structural concerns inside, because the force of the accident damaged the building, he said.

John Bartolomeo, of Bart Elevator Service, said elevator repair people must be extra careful due to the volume of riders.

"It's the largest form of transportation," he said. "More people get in elevators than any other transportation vehicle."

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

BROOKLYN DA

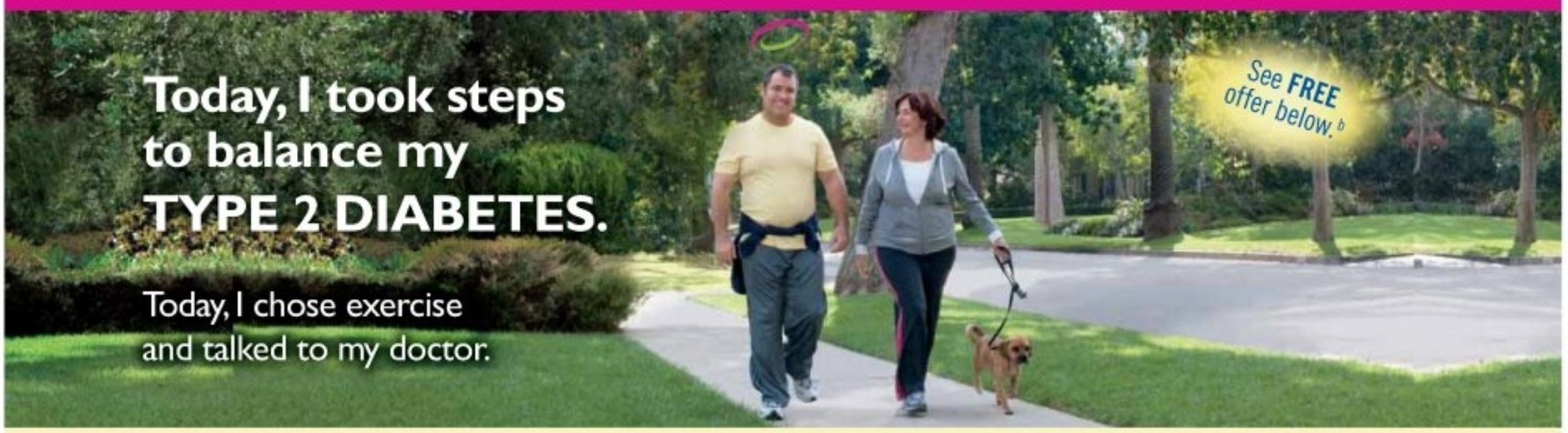
▶ Jordan

Repairman indicted in BK

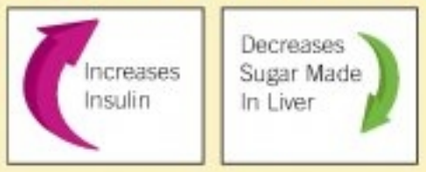
NEW YORK. An elevator repairman was indicted in Brooklyn on Thursday in a separate incident: Last December, Jason Jordan, 27, disabled a safety switch at SUNY Downstate Medical Center that stopped the elevator from moving when doors were open, alleges the Brooklyn DA. He allegedly did not leave a note that the elevator was out of service.

A woman became trapped in the doors and was dragged up seven flights, her arm and leg crushed against each floor. She survived, but is still in rehabilitation. METRO/AB

JANUVIA is widely available on most insurance plans.[a]



JANUVIA works to lower blood sugar in 2 ways. Talk to your doctor about JANUVIA today.



- **JANUVIA is a once-daily prescription pill that helps your body increase the insulin made in your pancreas and decrease the sugar made in your liver.**
- **Along with diet and exercise, JANUVIA helps lower blood sugar levels in adults with type 2 diabetes.**
- **JANUVIA is not likely to cause weight gain or low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).**

JANUVIA (jah-NEW-vee-ah) should not be used in patients with type 1 diabetes or with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in the blood or urine). If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting it while taking JANUVIA.

Selected Risk Information About JANUVIA: Serious side effects can happen in people who take JANUVIA, including pancreatitis, which may be severe and lead to death. Before you start taking JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you've ever had pancreatitis. Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

Do not take JANUVIA if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including sitagliptin. Symptoms of serious allergic reactions to JANUVIA, including rash, hives, and swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty breathing or swallowing, can occur. If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away.

Kidney problems, sometimes requiring dialysis, have been reported.

If you take JANUVIA with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), such as a sulfonylurea or insulin, your risk of getting low blood sugar is higher. The dose of your sulfonylurea medicine or insulin may need to be lowered while you use JANUVIA. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include headache, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, confusion, irritability, hunger, fast heart beat, sweating, and feeling jittery.

Your doctor may do blood tests before and during treatment with JANUVIA to see how well your kidneys are working. Based on these results, your doctor may change your dose of JANUVIA. The most common side effects of JANUVIA are upper respiratory tract infection, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, and headache.

Call 1-888-JANUVIA or visit Januvia.com.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

[a] Fingertip Formulary, LLC, June 2011.

Please see the Medication Guide on the next page and discuss it with your doctor.

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Januvia® (sitagliptin) tablets

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[b] **Terms and conditions apply. Please see next page.**

Eligible patients may receive a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.

Dose _____mg
Offer valid for up to 30 tablets.

1. Take this voucher to your next appointment. Ask your doctor about JANUVIA.
2. Get a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA if your doctor says it's right for you.
No purchase is required. Not valid for refills.
JANUVIA is a prescription medication. Only your health care provider can decide if JANUVIA is right for you.
How this voucher works:
- This voucher can be used 1 time before the expiration date.
- To receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA, take this voucher with your valid signed prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy (certain restrictions apply).
- There is no requirement to purchase any product or service to receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.
- Restrictions apply. **Please see Terms and Conditions on the back of this voucher.**
- **Expiration Date: 06/30/2012**

Prescriber
To initiate a free 30-day trial supply for an appropriate patient, you should:
- **Read the Prescribing Information before prescribing JANUVIA.**
- Write a prescription for up to 30 tablets of JANUVIA. No substitutions are permitted.
- Refills are not required and there are no requirements to purchase any product or service to use this voucher. If you want your patient to continue taking JANUVIA beyond the free trial period, please write a separate prescription based on your recommended therapy.
- Fill in the dose on this voucher.
- Give the valid signed prescription and this voucher to the patient along with the Medication Guide for JANUVIA.
- Eligible patients can take this voucher and the prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy to receive their free 30-day trial supply.
- For additional copies of the Prescribing Information, call 800-672-6372, visit Januvia.com, or contact your Merck representative.

Pharmacist
- Only 1 voucher may be used per patient. Voucher may not be transferred to another patient.
- There is no requirement for patient to purchase any product or service and refills are not required.
- Please ensure that the medication and dosage strength selected match the medication and dosage strength on the prescription.
- **Submit claim to McKesson Corporation using BIN No. 610524. For pharmacy processing questions, please call the Help Desk at 800-657-7613.**
- For all other prescriptions, please use the patient's primary method of payment and a new Rx number.
- By processing this voucher, you agree that no claim for payment or reimbursement may be submitted for this free trial supply to any patient or any third-party payer, including federal or state health care programs (Medicaid, Medicare [including true out-of-pocket expense (TrOOP)], or any other state or federal medical or pharmaceutical benefit or pharmaceutical assistance program), private insurers, and health or pharmacy benefit plans.
- For auditing purposes, a copy of this voucher must be attached to the original prescription and retained by the pharmacy. McKesson Corporation reserves the right to review all records and documentation relating to the dispensing of product.
- By accepting this voucher, you agree to the terms hereof.
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Medication Guide

JANUVIA® (jah-NEW-vee-ah) (sitagliptin) Tablets

Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking JANUVIA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about JANUVIA, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?

Serious side effects can happen in people taking JANUVIA, including inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) which may be severe and lead to death.

Certain medical problems make you more likely to get pancreatitis.

Before you start taking JANUVIA:

Tell your doctor if you have ever had

- pancreatitis
- stones in your gallbladder (gallstones)
- a history of alcoholism
- high blood triglyceride levels
- kidney problems

Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

What is JANUVIA?

- JANUVIA is a prescription medicine used along with diet and exercise to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with type 1 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in your blood or urine).
- If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) in the past, it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis while you take JANUVIA.
- It is not known if JANUVIA is safe and effective when used in children under 18 years of age.

Who should not take JANUVIA?

Do not take JANUVIA if:

- you are allergic to any of the ingredients in JANUVIA. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in JANUVIA.

  Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to JANUVIA may include:
  - rash
  - raised red patches on your skin (hives)
  - swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing

What should I tell my doctor before taking JANUVIA?

Before you take JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis).
- have kidney problems.
- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JANUVIA will harm your unborn baby. If you are pregnant, talk with your doctor about the best way to control your blood sugar while you are pregnant.

  Pregnancy Registry: If you take JANUVIA at any time during your pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can join the JANUVIA pregnancy registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-800-986-8999.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. It is not known if JANUVIA will pass into your breast milk. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you are taking JANUVIA.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take JANUVIA?

- Take JANUVIA 1 time each day exactly as your doctor tells you.
- You can take JANUVIA with or without food.
- Your doctor may do blood tests from time to time to see how well your kidneys are working. Your doctor may change your dose of JANUVIA based on the results of your blood tests.
- Your doctor may tell you to take JANUVIA along with other diabetes medicines. Low blood sugar can happen more often when JANUVIA is taken with certain other diabetes medicines. See **"What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?"**.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take two doses of JANUVIA at the same time.
- If you take too much JANUVIA, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center right away.
- When your body is under some types of stress, such as fever, trauma (such as a car accident), infection or surgery, the amount of diabetes medicine that you need may change. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these conditions and follow your doctor's instructions.
- Check your blood sugar as your doctor tells you to.
- Stay on your prescribed diet and exercise program while taking JANUVIA.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prevent, recognize and manage low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), and problems you have because of your diabetes.
- Your doctor will check your diabetes with regular blood tests, including your blood sugar levels and your hemoglobin A1C.

What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?

Serious side effects have happened in people taking JANUVIA.

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?"**.
- **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).** If you take JANUVIA with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar, such as a sulfonylurea or insulin, your risk of getting low blood sugar is higher. The dose of your sulfonylurea medicine or insulin may need to be lowered while you use JANUVIA. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include:
  - headache
  - drowsiness
  - weakness
  - dizziness
  - confusion
  - irritability
  - hunger
  - fast heart beat
  - sweating
  - feeling jittery
- **Serious allergic reactions.** If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away. See **"Who should not take JANUVIA?"**. Your doctor may give you a medicine for your allergic reaction and prescribe a different medicine for your diabetes.
- **Kidney problems,** sometimes requiring dialysis

The most common side effects of JANUVIA include:

- upper respiratory infection
- stuffy or runny nose and sore throat
- headache

JANUVIA may have other side effects, including:

- stomach upset and diarrhea
- swelling of the hands or legs, when JANUVIA is used with rosiglitazone (Avandia®). Rosiglitazone is another type of diabetes medicine.

These are not all the possible side effects of JANUVIA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you, is unusual or does not go away.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store JANUVIA?

Store JANUVIA at 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep JANUVIA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the use of JANUVIA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes that are not listed in Medication Guides. Do not use JANUVIA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give JANUVIA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about JANUVIA. If you would like to know more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about JANUVIA that is written for health professionals. For more information, go to www.JANUVIA.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in JANUVIA?

Active ingredient: sitagliptin.

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, anhydrous dibasic calcium phosphate, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, red iron oxide, and yellow iron oxide.

What is type 2 diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which your body does not make enough insulin, and the insulin that your body produces does not work as well as it should. Your body can also make too much sugar. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems.

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, and by certain medicines when necessary.

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EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

▶ Don't bother waiting for the 4, 5, and 6 on some weeknights in January; the MTA is planning an unprecedented service closure on that line.

4, 5, 6 subway closures loom

MTA to shutter Lexington Avenue line for repairs on weeknights ● But advocate worries about rider safety

One week after New Yorkers return from their New Year's Eve soirees, the 4, 5 and 6 will be taking time off for some R&R of their own.

In an unprecedented service closure, the Lexington Avenue line will be stopped from Grand Central to Atlantic Avenue in both directions from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. from Monday evening on Jan. 9 to Friday morning on Jan. 13.

The pilot program, called FASTRACK, will enable the MTA to repair signals, tracks and stations in one swoop, instead of spreading the work out over a longer period of time.

25,000
NYC Transit estimates the closure will affect some 25,000 riders.

MTA officials hope that the closure will enable the authority to work faster, while providing a safer work environment for transit workers. They anticipate it will save the authority $10 million to $15 million.

They also say the move will only inconvenience 10 percent of weeknight riders in the entire system.

Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign said he thinks FASTRACK is overall a good idea.

"I think it's worth a try," Russianoff said, but warned that longer travel times caused by the closure may not be safe.

"Adding 20 to 30 minutes to someone's trip in the middle of the night could be a dangerous thing," Russianoff said.

The second scheduled FASTRACK closure will be on the Seventh Avenue 1, 2, and 3 lines between 34th Street and Atlantic Avenue from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. beginning Monday, Feb. 13, and ending at 5 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
emily.epstein@metro.us

Slimmer pickins' for New York school kids

New York City kids are slimmer than ever, according to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC study found that the overall obesity rate among city kindergartners through eighth graders decreased from 21.9 percent in 2006-2007 to 20.7 percent in 2010-2011.

Even though one in five city students is still obese, the slight decrease is the biggest decline in childhood obesity reported by any large city in the country, according to the city's health department.

"After decades of increases in childhood obesity, we are very much encouraged to see obesity rates going down," said Health Commissioner Thomas Farley.

ISTOCK

▶ Slight weight loss

The most impressive decrease in obesity rates was among children ages 5 to 6 years old, said Farley. In a 2006-2007 study, 20.2 percent of those children were obese, versus 18.2 percent this year.

METRO/EAE

Trimming the fat

City schools lighten up:

1. In 2008, schools shifted from serving whole to low-fat milk.
2. As of this year, the only drinks allowed in elementary school vending machines are those with 10 calories per every 8 ounces.
3. Only snacks with fewer than 200 calories and less than 7 grams of fat will be offered.
4. Obesity in white children dropped 12.5 percent, but only 3.4 percent among Hispanic children and 1.9 percent among the city's black children.

Metro Magic toy drive

1: Log on to www.metro.us and look for this Metro Magic logo:

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THE END OF NEARLY NINE YEARS IN IRAQ

- Flag lowered, signifying end of US occupation
- 4,500 Americans, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The United States Forces-Iraq flag is displayed before being retired during a casing ceremony signifying the departure of United States troops from Iraq.

U.S. forces formally ended almost nine years of war in Iraq on Thursday with a modest flag-lowering ceremony in Baghdad, while to the north flickering violence highlighted ethnic and sectarian strains threatening the country in years ahead.

"After a lot of blood spilled by Iraqis and Americans, the mission of an Iraq that could govern and secure itself has become real," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said at the ceremony at Baghdad's still heavily-fortified airport.

Almost 4,500 U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives in the war that began with a "Shock and Awe" campaign of missiles pounding Baghdad and descended into sectarian strife and a surge in U.S. troop numbers.

U.S. soldiers lowered the flag of American forces in Iraq and slipped it into a camouflage-colored sleeve in a brief outdoor ceremony, symbolically ending the most unpopular U.S. military venture since the Vietnam War of the 1960s and '70s.

The remaining 4,000 American troops will leave by the end of the year.

Toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is dead, executed in 2006, and the worst sectarian violence has, at least for now, passed. REUTERS

Timeline

- **March 20, 2003:** U.S.-led forces invade Iraq from Kuwait to oust Saddam Hussein.
- **April 9:** U.S. troops take Baghdad; Saddam goes into hiding.
- **May 1:** President George W. Bush declares hostilities over.
- **Dec. 13:** U.S. troops capture Saddam near Tikrit.
- **June 15:** U.S. military completes its troop build-up, or "surge," to around 170,000 soldiers.

- **July 22, 2008:** The U.S. military says the last of five extra combat brigades sent to Iraq in 2007 have withdrawn, leaving just under 147,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.
- **June 30, 2009:** All U.S. combat units withdraw from Iraq's urban centers and redeploy to bases outside.
- **Aug. 31:** Troop levels in Iraq are reduced to 49,700 after a major drawdown is completed.
- **April 26, 2011:** U.S. Congressional Budget Office says the cost of Iraq operations totals around $752 billion since 2003.

REUTERS

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Thirsty, voters? This party just getting started

With Occupy Wall Street getting media attention lately, some may have forgotten the Obama-era's first popular revolt But they remember

Tea Party supporters now hold fewer sign-waving rallies, a hallmark of their early opposition to bank bailouts and President Obama's health care reform in 2009. But the movement isn't losing steam.

Interviews with activists across 20 U.S. states indicate that Tea Party groups, far from fading, have evolved into an increasingly sophisticated network working to unseat establishment Republicans who they believe have betrayed the principles of lower taxes and limited government.

"Those who think the Tea Party is on the wane are in for a gigantic surprise in 2012," says Debbie Dooley, co-organizer of the Atlanta Tea Party. "We have built a grassroots army and we will be a fine-tuned machine next year."

The goal of these loosely affiliated but fiercely independent groups nationwide is to build a "farm team" of public officials who can ascend through the ranks of government. It's a long-term strategy that looks past the 2012 election to a takeover of the Republican Party and the U.S. Congress.

Instead of organizing demonstrations, an unpaid army of managers, small business owners and stay-at-home moms is learning how to get out the vote, raise money and set up political action committees. They are working to overcome the territorial rivalries that dogged the Tea Party in 2010, when groups backed multiple primary challengers and often allowed the establishment candidate to win.

One thing the activists have learned is that they must unify behind one candidate rather than let a number of conservative contenders split the vote. A Tea Party coalition has already done this in Indiana, where they hope to unseat a six-term incumbent. REUTERS

43%

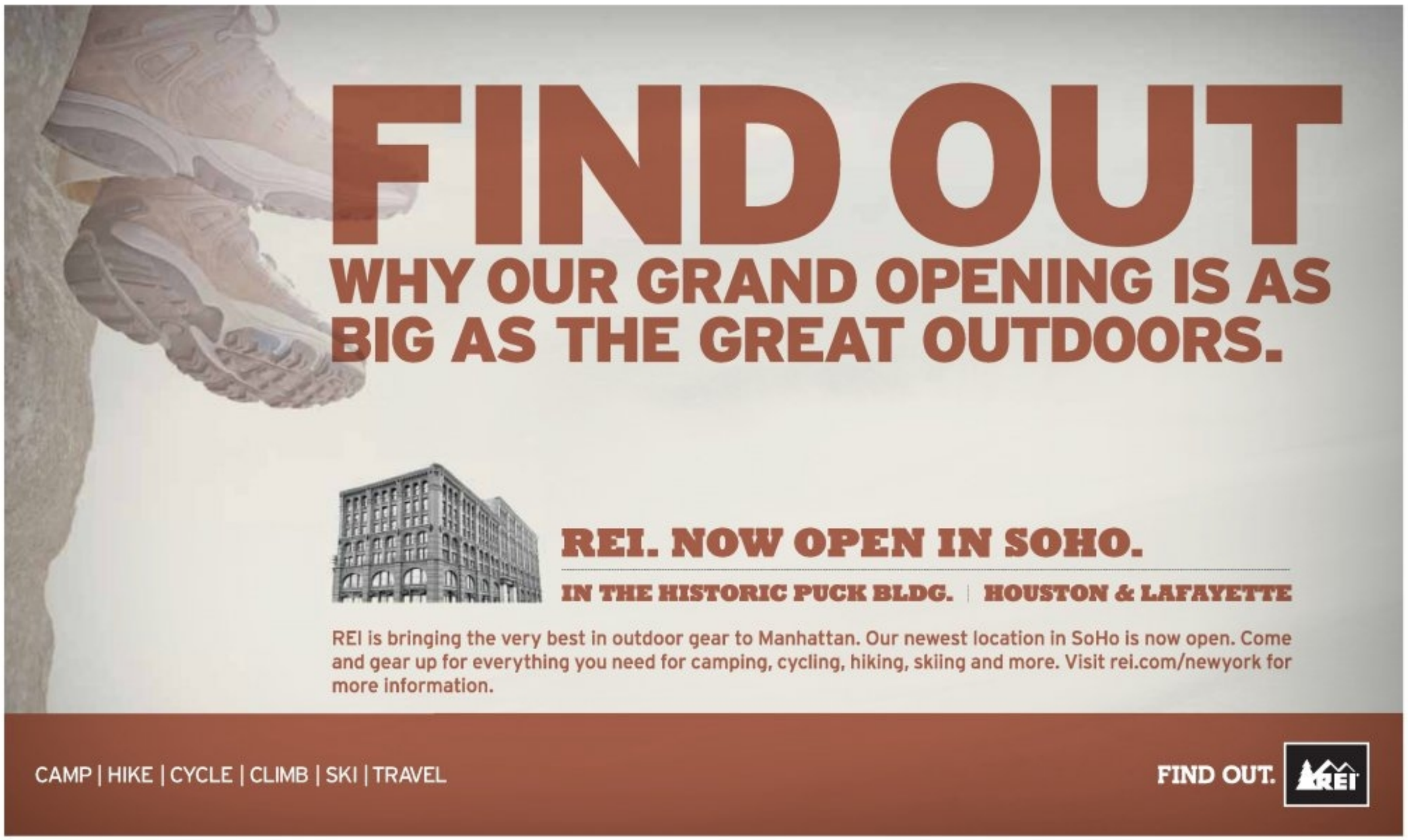
According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll this week, 43 percent of Republicans either identify (23 percent) or identify strongly (20 percent) with the Tea Party.

23%

Among all Americans, those figures show 13 percent identify, 10 percent do strongly.

MELANIE STETSON FREEMAN/THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Naples, Fla., Tea Party gathered in a local park this past Thanksgiving. Rallies of this sort — with members dressed mainly in red, white and blue, and many carrying U.S. flags — helped propel the political movement into the national spotlight. But supporters have taken a step back from high-profile gatherings and have begun focusing on electoral priorities — like unity.



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WEEKEND

2

Do you hear what we hear?

This year's holiday releases are a mixed bag Michael Buble flirts with Santa, a Stone Temple Pilot gets into reggae and jazz and the Biebs is all over the place Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

Michael Buble "Christmas"

Naughty: The biggest problem with this album is that once you hear it, you'll have to admit that you like Michael Buble. But if the people you're telling have heard "Christmas," then they'll go easy on you.

Nice: Buble is silly, classy, and so right on-key. Plus, he re-imagines almost every song on this album. Sure, it's a little weird to hear "Santa Baby" as a vaguely homoerotic May/December come-on, but his torch song treatment of Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" unearths a real longing that's missing in Mimi's version.

She & Him "A Very She & Him Christmas"

Naughty: M. Ward's guitar playing is as beautiful as ever and Zooey Deschanel's voice is like the moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, but it would be nice if there was at least one original track to spice up this 12-song collection. If you're not listening closely to them playing these standards, you might think you're listening to one really long song.

Nice: She & Him switch the she and him roles on "Baby It's Cold Outside," so Zooey Deschanel is the one persuading M. Ward to stay just a little bit longer. This long overdue update makes the 1936 song about 50 percent less date-rapey.

Justin Bieber "Under the Mistletoe"

Naughty: This is one uneven collection, mostly because the songs span a period of the Biebs' career where he's outgrowing his cute Christmas elf phase. It's all over the place, sometimes within a single song! A smooth R&B duet with Boyz II Men on "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)" includes a searing guitar solo; he does a Jackson 5 take on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" that is super-autotuned; and Busta Rhymes comes from nowhere to rap in "Drummer Boy." Sample lyric: "Gatha round the mistletoe real quick, as a matta of fact, gatha 'round the fireplace, it's about to get hot in here."

Nice: The title track could be a new classic, with its easy Jason Mraz groove and Bieber's pouty loverman delivery.

"Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album Vol. 2"

Naughty: This album is full of covers, sung with a self-seriousness that brings out the Grinch in us. In "Do They Know It's Christmas," when the cast sings the "thank God it's them instead of you" line, we couldn't help but say that exact same thing — then we went and sought out the original version. They keep trying, but no "Glee" cover has surpassed an original.

Nice: "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" is like a snow man sugar cookie. It's sweet and you want more of it. But it would taste a lot better if Kelly Clarkson were serving it to us.

Lady Gaga "A Very Gaga Holiday"

Naughty: This four-song EP, culled from her "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving" TV special, is only 25 percent seasonal.

Nice: Only Mother Monster would have the audacity to add another verse to "White Christmas." It's a stupid verse about her "dreaming of a white snow man," but it's kind of funny and her voice is right on.

My Morning Jacket "iTunes Session"

Naughty: Yeah, we know that My Morning Jacket recorded this seven-song collection as part of an "iTunes Session," but couldn't they have given it a cooler title?

Nice: The band's classic reverb approach suits the snowy majestic ideal of Christmas perfectly. This collection seems like it was recorded specifically for just sitting in front of the Christmas tree and marvelling. The band bring new life to The Band's "Christmas Must Be Tonight."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Don't forget:

Mariah Carey & John Legend, "When Christmas Comes"

Naughty: This song from Mariah's 2010 album, "Merry Christmas II You," was rolled out as a single last month. With its department store horns and not-so-smooth R&B groove, the tune sounds like it was recorded for a made-for-basic-cable-television movie. There are little sleigh bells in the recording and the lyrics are cringe-worthy, with lines like "I can't wait to unwrap your love" mixed with a light "Jesus is the reason for the season" reference.

Nice: The album artwork is actually pretty cool, made to look like a well-worn record cover in the tradition of the Carpenters.

The more the merrier

Eldridge Rodriguez "Christmas on the Allston-Brighton Line"

Naughty: The major downfall of this three-song EP is that it's only a three-song EP.

Nice: The way that E.R. integrates pre-existing holiday lines into his originals is effortless. "I've got my records on, but all I play is 'Silent Night,'" he sings on "Baby I'm Alone Tonight (Christmas Time)." And though his narrator is certainly having a blue Christmas, there's a playfulness to the presentation, evident from the title of the song "Christmas Eve (At Old Country Buffet)."

Scott Weiland "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Naughty: The first half of this album finds the Stone Temple Pilots singer sounding like a drunk who would be featured on the gag-reel of the "American Idol" auditions episodes.

Nice: As the album goes along, Weiland sobers up, finds his footing and dresses up standards like "What Child Is This" and "O Holy Night" in jazzy and island rhythms, respectively.

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TV watch list

'Christmas in Washington'

SPECIAL. Conan O'Brien hosts the annual Christmas concert in the capitol, but we've all seen the photos: It's performer Justin Bieber melting Sasha and Malia Obama's hearts that steals the show. **Friday, 8 p.m., TNT**

'Method to the Madness of Jerry Lewis'

MOVIE. The incomparable comedian is profiled in this doc that proves the 85-year-old is still making 'em laugh. **Saturday, 8 p.m., Encore**

'Survivor: South Pacific'

REALITY. Can Coach win it all in his redemption season? Now that God is telling him what to do, sure, why not? **Season finale, Sunday, 8 p.m., CBS** AMBER RAY

Surprises, snubs in Globes nods

The Golden Globe nominations were announced Thursday, with 'The Artist' earning the most at six

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes. And as usual, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown:

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

Biggest winners

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favorite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, **"Midnight in Paris,"** gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen. As far as sheer numbers, silent film **"The Artist"** — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but **"The Help"** and **"The Descendants"** are close behind at five. Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively. British series **"Downton Abbey,"** which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

Biggest snubs

No **Melissa McCarthy** for **"Bridesmaids"**? We're shocked. But the most glaring omission to awards-watchers is **Steven Spielberg.** Even though his two films, **"War Horse"** and **"The Adventures of Tintin,"** are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category. NED EHRBAR

Film and TV nominees

Film: Best Drama
- "The Descendants"
- "The Help"
- "Hugo"
- "The Ides of March"
- "Moneyball"
- "War Horse"

Film: Best Comedy or Musical
- "50/50"
- "The Artist"
- "Bridesmaids"
- "Midnight in Paris"
- "My Week with Marilyn"

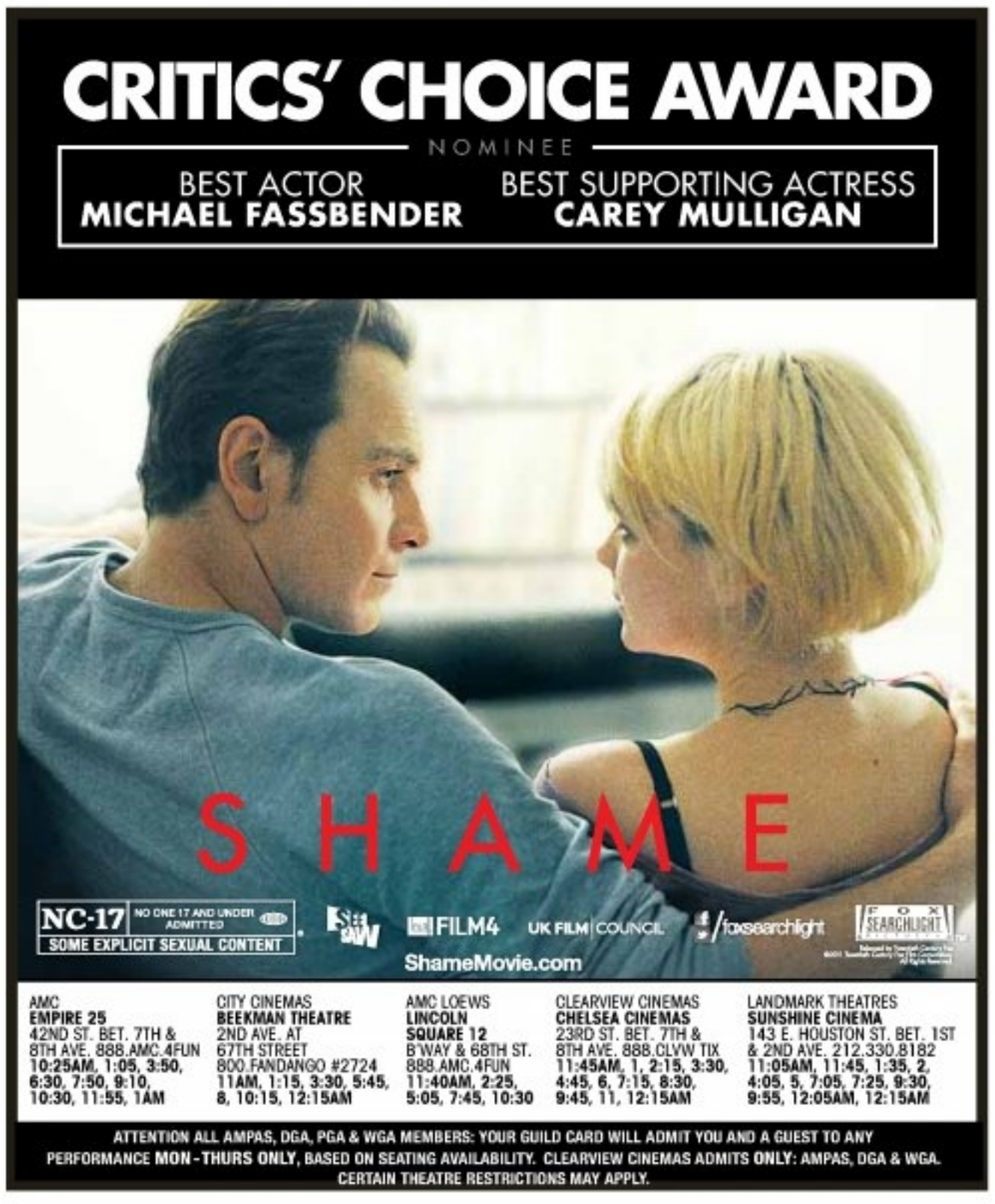
Film: Best Director
- Woody Allen, "Midnight in Paris"
- George Clooney, "The Ides of March"
- Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist"
- Alexander Payne, "The Descendants"
- Martin Scorsese, "Hugo"

Television: Best Drama
- "American Horror Story"
- "Boardwalk Empire"
- "Boss"
- "Game of Thrones"
- "Homeland"

Television: Best Comedy or Musical
- "Enlightened"
- "Episodes"
- "Glee"
- "Modern Family"
- "New Girl"

Television: Best Mini-series or Motion Picture
- "Cinema Verite"
- "Downton Abbey"
- "The Hour"
- "Mildred Pierce"
- "Too Big To Fail"

— For the full list of nominees, visit www.metro.us



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Sherlock's arch enemy

Rumor was that Brad Pitt or another celebrity would play opposite Robert Downey Jr. as Moriarty, the ultimate bad guy But no: Please meet Jared Harris

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Dapper Jared Harris is the dastardly Professor Moriarty.

On the horizon

Harris on playing Ulysses S. Grant in Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln."

They're halfway through. They finish around Christmastime. What can you say? It's an opportunity to work with Steven Spielberg and Daniel Day Lewis on a Tony Kushner script. I mean, it's just awesome all around, really. I can't think of an actor in the world who doesn't want to work with Spielberg.

You can't have a Sherlock Holmes without a Moriarty, and while the character was hinted at — shown as just a hand emerging from darkness — in 2009's "Sherlock Holmes," the master villain comes center stage in the new "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," embodied with quiet cunning by British actor and "Mad Men" star Jared Harris. While Harris admits he was a big fan of the first movie, he hadn't considered that shadowy hand would eventually belong to him.

How was it to take on this monumental literary figure, one of the biggest villains of all time?

It was a great opportunity, so the ambitious part of you recognizes that. The other side of you goes, "Yes! But how the f— are you going to do it?" That's the bit that's scary.

Did you look to any previous incarnations of Moriarty while preparing?

I looked at the books — I'd read them before, but not with that focus — and I didn't find that particularly helpful in terms of the Moriarty who appears in those two stories. Given that they sort of threw a hand grenade into the traditional Sherlock Holmes ... the Moriarty had to be in keeping with that. But at the same time you're aware that after what Mike Myers did with super-villains playing Doctor Evil, in a post-Austin Powers era, that there's that pitfall on one side, and then there's the pitfall on the other side of there's no point in just repeating what other people have done in playing the part, because that's boring.

After the first film, there was a lot of speculation as to who would play the part. Did you picture yourself in the role?

Never, never. No. I mean, I'd heard there was all these names that were printed in the press. I have no idea if they were true or not. I know they were looking for a star, but I don't know who they were or who they tried. But I did not think for a second watching that movie that I would be in the next one. It never occurred to me that it would be a possibility. I mean, I remember when the first one was casting in London, I gave my agent an earful for not getting me up for the first one.

You've done some fight choreography with Robert Downey Jr. in this. Are you going to apply any of that to "Mad Men" next season?

Ah. [Laughs] That's not up for me to decide, that's up to Matt Weiner. I can't tell you anything about the stories for the new season. I can talk with you all night long about episodes from seasons one through four as much as you like, but I can't tell you about season five. We're all looking forward to it.

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42nd Street Between 7th and 8th Avenues
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-11:20-12:10-1:00-1:50-2:40-3:30-4:20-5:10-6:00-6:50-7:40-8:30-9:20-10:10-11:00-11:45. Digital Presentation
COOK COUNTY (NR) Fri and Sat 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55, 12:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:15, 11:15, 12:20, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DIRTY PICTURE (NR) 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:35. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:25, 2:05, 4:55. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 10:05, 12:40, 3:25, 6:10, 8:55, 11:40. RealD 3D; Sun 10:05-12:40-3:25-6:10-8:55-11:35. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) Fri 10:50, 1:55, 5:00, 8:05, 11:10. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:40-2:50-5:55-9:00-12:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:40-2:50-5:55-9:00-11:55. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 11:40, 12:50, 2:50, 3:55, 5:55, 7:00, 9:00, 10:05, 12:05. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:50-12:50-1:55-3:55-5:00-7:00-8:05-10:05-11:10. RealD 3D
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) Fri and Sat 1:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:40-7:35. Digital Presentation
IN TIME (PG-13) Fri and Sat 7:35, 10:20, 1:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:05-2:55-5:40-8:20-11:05. Digital Presentation
J. EDGAR (R) 12:30, 4:05, 7:20, 10:40. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 10:45, 12:00, 1:10, 2:30, 3:45, 5:05, 6:20, 7:30, 8:50, 10:00, 11:25, 12:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-12:00-1:10-2:30-3:45-5:05-6:20-7:30-8:50-10:00-11:25. Digital Presentation
MAGIC TO WIN (KAI XIN MO FA) (NR) Fri and Sat 11:55, 2:35, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25, 12:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:55-2:35-5:20-7:55-10:25. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:00, 1:20, 4:40, 8:00, 11:20. IMAX
MONEYBALL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:35, 4:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-4:25-10:20. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 10:55, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40, 9:30, 12:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:55-1:25-4:05-6:40-9:30-12:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:40, 11:45, 1:45, 2:45, 4:45, 5:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:45, 11:45. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45-12:45. ETX: Enhanced Theatre Experience; Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45. ETX: Enhanced Theatre Experience; Sun 10:40-11:45-1:45-2:45-4:45-5:45-7:45-8:45-10:45-11:40. Digital Presentation
SHAME (NC-17) Fri and Sat 10:25, 1:05, 3:50, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:30, 11:55, 1:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:25-1:05-3:50-6:30-7:50-9:10-10:30-11:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Kips Bay 15
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Corner of 31st Street and 2nd Avenue
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 9:45, 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 9:50, 12:15, 2:40, 6:00. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 9:30, 12:10, 2:50, 5:00, 5:30, 7:40, 8:10, 10:20, 10:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:05-12:40-3:20-5:00-6:05-7:40-8:50-10:20-11:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri 10:00, 12:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:30-12:00. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 10:35, 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:25-1:10-3:55-6:40-9:25-12:15. RealD 3D
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:00, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:30. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 9:30, 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri 9:35, 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:35-11:55-2:10-4:30-6:50-9:15-11:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 9:45, 10:15, 12:30, 1:00, 3:15, 3:45, 6:30, 8:25, 9:10, 11:05, 11:50. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:40-10:25-12:30-1:10-3:15-4:00-6:35-8:30-9:10-11:10-11:50. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 9:30, 10:00, 12:15, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:40, 8:55, 10:00, 11:35, 11:50. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:45-10:30-12:30-1:15-2:30-3:15-4:00-5:20-6:00-6:45-8:15-8:45-9:30-11:10-11:40-12:15. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 10:05, 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 10:55. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:50-1:00-3:05-5:05-7:10-9:20-11:20. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri 9:30, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:45-12:25-3:10-5:50-8:30-11:10. Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:40-1:00-3:10-5:30-7:45-10:00-12:10. Digital Presentation

Regal Union Square Stadium 14
800-326-3264 628
13th & Broadway
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 10:15, 10:55, 12:30, 1:20, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:35, 11:45, 12:45; Sun 10:15-10:55-12:30-1:20-2:45-3:45-5:00-6:00-7:15-8:15-9:30-10:35.
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 10:30, 11:30, 1:25, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:50, 12:35; Sun 10:30-11:30-1:25-2:20-4:10-5:10-7:00-8:00-9:50-10:50.
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:20, 2:15, 5:20
HUGO (PG) 11:10, 2:05, 5:05, 7:50, 10:45
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 1:00, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 8:10, 10:25, 12:40; Sun 8:10-10:25.
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:15, 12:15, 2:00, 3:00, 4:45, 5:45, 7:25, 8:20, 10:05, 10:55
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:40, 6:30, 7:40, 9:40, 10:40, 12:30; Sun 11:00-12:50-1:50-3:30-4:40-6:30-7:40-9:40-10:40.
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 11:40, 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:50, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00, 12:20; Sun 11:40-12:40-2:10-3:10-4:50-5:40-7:30-8:30-10:00-11:00.

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312 W. 34th St.; between 8th and 9th Avenues
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 9:50, 11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50-11:30-12:30-2:00-3:00-4:30-5:30-7:00-8:00-10:30. Digital Presentation

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:25, 4:00, 6:40, 9:15, 12:00. RealD 3D; Sun 10:50-1:25-4:00-6:40-9:15. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:30, 1:40, 4:45, 7:50, 11:10. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:20. RealD 3D; Sat 1:50-4:40-7:25-10:20. RealD 3D; Sun 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:25-10:20. RealD 3D
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 9:40, 12:55, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50, 12:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-1:00-3:50-6:50-9:50. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 10:40, 11:40, 1:20, 2:20, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:20. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 10:00, 11:10, 12:15, 1:10, 2:10, 3:15, 4:20, 5:20, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40, 12:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-10:00-11:10-12:15-1:10-2:10-3:15-4:20-5:20-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:40-10:40-11:30. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:20, 12:30, 1:30, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-1:30-3:40-6:00-8:30-9:30-11:00. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:55, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00, 11:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13
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1998 Broadway
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:00, 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 2:35, 5:15. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 9:50, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20. RealD 3D
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:35, 2:55, 6:15, 9:35, 12:55. IMAX; Sun 11:35-2:55-6:15-9:35. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 10:30, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 10:35, 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10. Digital Presentation
SHAME (NC-17) 11:40, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:30, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15, 11:00, 12:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-12:30-3:45-7:00-8:00-10:15-11:00. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 10:55, 12:35. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:15-10:50-12:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:15-10:50. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 9:45, 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri 10:25, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 12:25-3:00-5:35-8:10-10:45. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50, 12:35. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:15-10:50-12:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:15-10:50. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 9:45, 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri 10:25, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 12:25-3:00-5:35-8:10-10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:25-3:00-5:35-8:10-10:45. Digital Presentation

Regal E-Walk 13
800-326-3264
247 W 42nd St @ 8th Ave - In Times Square
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:35, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50. RealD 3D
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00. RPX; 11:40-12:40-1:20-2:40-3:40-4:20-5:40-6:40-7:20-8:40-9:40-10:20-11:40-12:40.
THE SITTER (R) 11:15, 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:00, 7:10, 8:15, 8:45, 9:20, 10:40, 11:45, 12:50
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) Fri and Sat 5:25, 8:20, 10:55; Sun 12:00-8:20-10:55.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 11:05, 12:05, 1:50, 4:35, 5:35, 7:30, 10:30, 11:10
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) 9:30, 11:50
YOUNG ADULT (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10, 12:30

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
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102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 12:10; Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:50, 4:45
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 2:20, 7:10. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 9:40
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:25, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 12:20, 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30, 12:20; Fri 11:30. OC-Open Caption; Sat 2:15. OC-Open Caption; Sat 11:30-12:20-4:55-7:40-10:30-12:20.; Sun 12:20-2:15-4:55-7:40.; Sun 11:30-10:30. OC-Open Caption
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:20, 1:00, 2:10, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:55, 12:00; Sun 11:20-1:00-2:10-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:00-10:55.
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 1:25, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10, 12:25; Sun 1:25-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:10.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:10, 10:40, 12:15; Sun 1:00-3:25-5:50-8:10-10:40.

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THE DESCENDANTS (R) 12:15, 3:00, 6:15, 9:15; 11:10-1:50-5:15-8:00-10:50. Digital Projection
HUGO 3D (PG) 11:15, 2:30, 5:30, 9:00, 11:55
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 10:00, 12:20; Sun 11:50-2:20-5:00-10:00.
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30. Digital Projection
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Fri 12:00; Sat 1:20.
SHAME (NC-17) 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00; Fri and Sat 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45-12:15. Digital Projection; Sun 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45. Digital Projection
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00. Digital Projection; 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45. CC-Closed Captions; Sun 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30. Digital Projection

AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9
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2309 Frederick Douglass Boulevard & 124th Street
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 11:15, 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:30, 11:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:30, 3:20, 8:10. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 12:55, 5:45. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 10:55, 1:20, 3:55. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 6:20, 9:00. RealD 3D
THE MUPPETS (PG) 10:35, 1:25, 4:00, 6:35, 9:20. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:40, 2:20, 5:15, 8:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 2:20-5:15-8:15-11:00. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:40, 7:45, 11:00. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:35, 7:45, 9:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:05-3:10-5:35-7:45-9:50. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 10:45. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 10:00. Digital Presentation

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ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:00, 11:00, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:20, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 1:35, 7:15. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:00, 4:15, 9:55. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 10:25, 1:30, 4:30, 8:00, 10:45. RealD 3D; Sun 1:30-4:30-8:00-10:45. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 8:30. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 10:15, 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:20, 1:25, 3:50, 6:10, 7:10, 9:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:25-3:50-6:10-7:10-9:30. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:00, 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:25. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Village 7
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66 Third Avenue at 11th Street
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:15. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 11:10. Digital Presentation

City Cinemas Village East Cinema
800-FAN-DANG 2708
181-189 Second Avenue
CORMAN'S WORLD: EXPLOITS OF A HOLLYWOOD REBEL (R) 11:15, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
DRIVE (R) 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
MARGIN CALL (R) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE (R) 11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25
MIDNIGHT IN PARIS (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25
THE SITTER (R) Fri DLP-Digital Projection; Fri 11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:00-11:00.; Sat and Sun 12:00-2:00-4:00-6:00-8:00-10:00. DLP-Digital Projection; Sat 11:00-1:00-3:00-5:00-7:00-9:00-11:00.; Sun 11:00-1:00-3:00-5:00-7:00-9:00.
SPECIAL EVENT (NR) 9:00

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CARNAGE (R) Fri and Sat 11:10, 12:10, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:10, 7:10, 8:10, 9:10, 10:10, 11:10; Sun 11:10-12:10-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10.
MELANCHOLIA (R) 10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00; Sun 12:00-2:15-4:30-7:20-9:40.
SPECIAL EVENT (NR)

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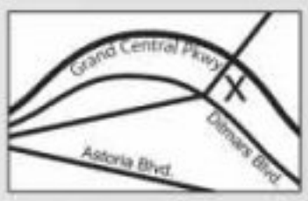

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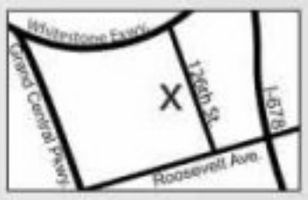

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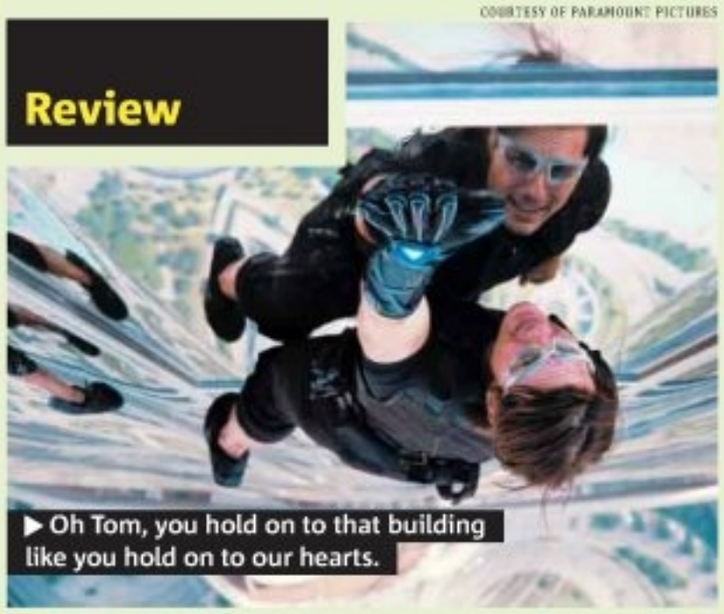
Review



▶ Oh Tom, you hold on to that building like you hold on to our hearts.

Entertaining? Very possible

'Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol'
Director: Brad Bird
Cast: Tom Cruise, Paula Patton, Simon Pegg
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●●●○

In the fourth "Mission: Impossible" thriller, Tom Cruise and his team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple plot but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, "Ghost Protocol"'s intensity returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. ● SG

Cool and the gang

Richie, Law and Downey return in the epically entertaining 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' If only all blockbusters were so good

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

▶ It's no s—, this "Sherlock."

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," the sequel to the 2009 blockbuster, is that rare phenomenon: A huge Hollywood production that doesn't play to the lowest common denominator. Instead, "Shadows" shines with a sharp script, witty dialogue, rat-a-tat direction from Guy Ritchie and fun performances from the ever-charming Robert Downey Jr., who reprises his role as the world's most famous detective, and Jude Law as his dutiful Dr. Watson.

The triple threat of Downey, Richie, and Law is not to be underestimated. They are just so good together that moments of nonsensical plot screw-ups and lulls are quickly swept under the rug by their cinematic, professional sleight-of-hands; they are magicians of the highest order.

Holding his own against the three (under Richie's direction, Law and Downey seem to be having so much fun, it's as though the co-stars are barging in on their party) is Jared Harris as Professor James Moriarty. He's so devious, so smarmy, so brown-in-the tooth, you can practically smell the nicotine coming off him.

So, if you're searching for a holiday blockbuster that won't kill your brain cells while entertaining the whole family, the answer, dear reader, is elementary.

If you go

'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows'
Director: Guy Ritchie
Cast: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Jared Harris
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●●●○

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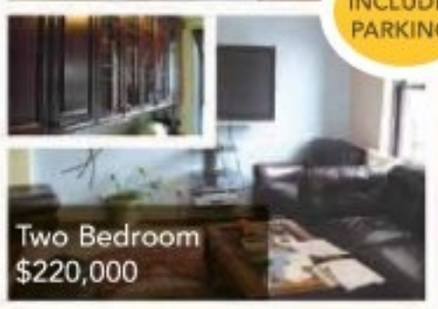
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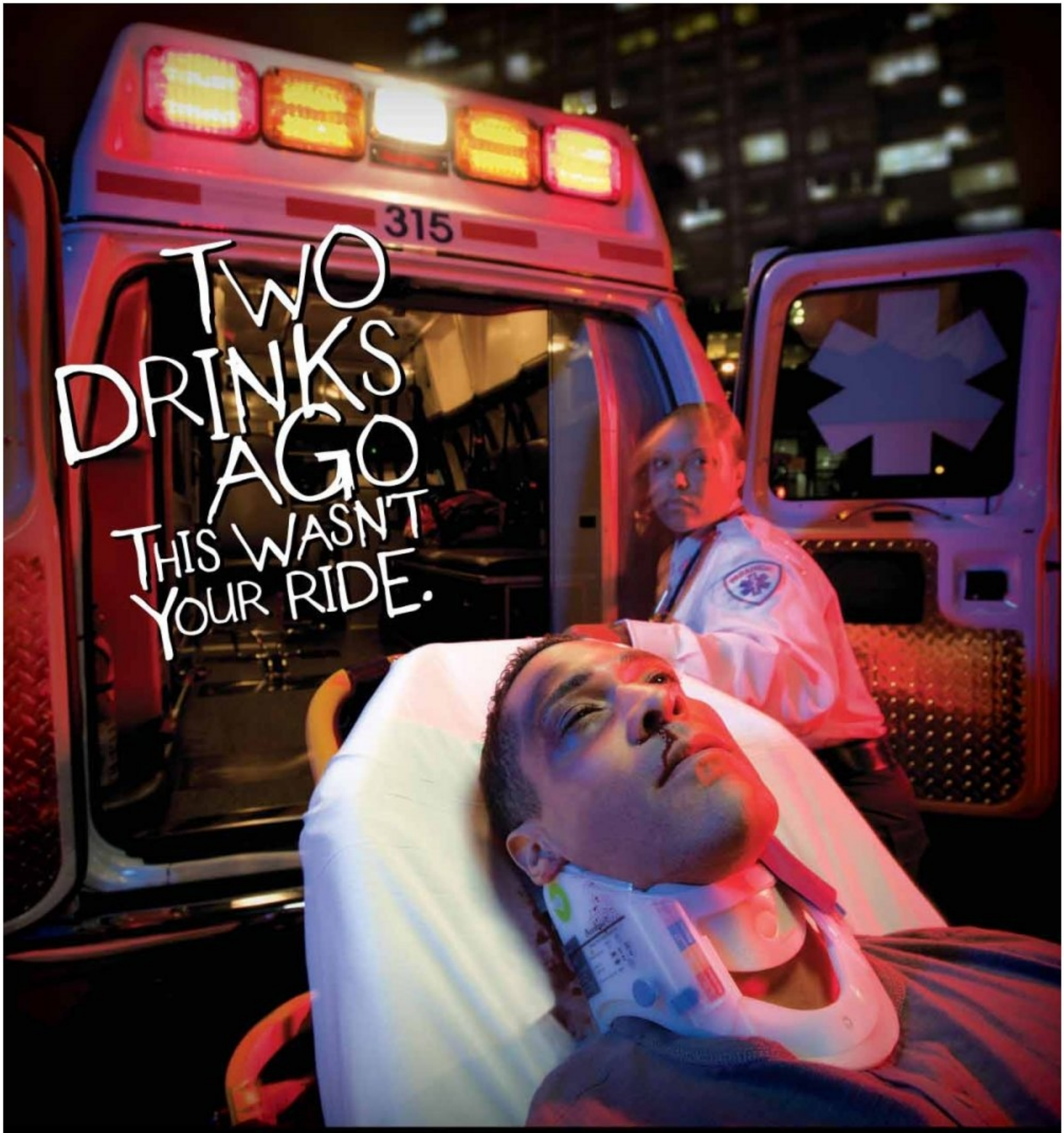

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Review

'Chipwrecked' is kryptonite for adults

'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked'
Director: Mike Mitchell
Cast: Justin Long, David Cross, Amy Poehler
Rating: G **Grade:** ●●○○○

COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

▶ Don't place your bets on this one.

Maybe the first sign of getting old is no longer finding the voices of Alvin and his chipmunk brethren entertaining — or even intelligible. The plot for their third theatrical outing gets underway after the recalcitrant rodents get separated from the Carnival cruise ship — ingenious product placement — and end up on that evergreen cartoon trope, the deserted island, where zany adventures are had and lessons about responsibility are learned. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the parents, but the only jokes to sail over kids heads here seem to make reference to Internet memes — the honey badger and Double Rainbow are particular touchstones. And while kids seem to enjoy the high-pitched voices, for grownups it's likely to be little more than headache-inducing. ● NED EHRBAR

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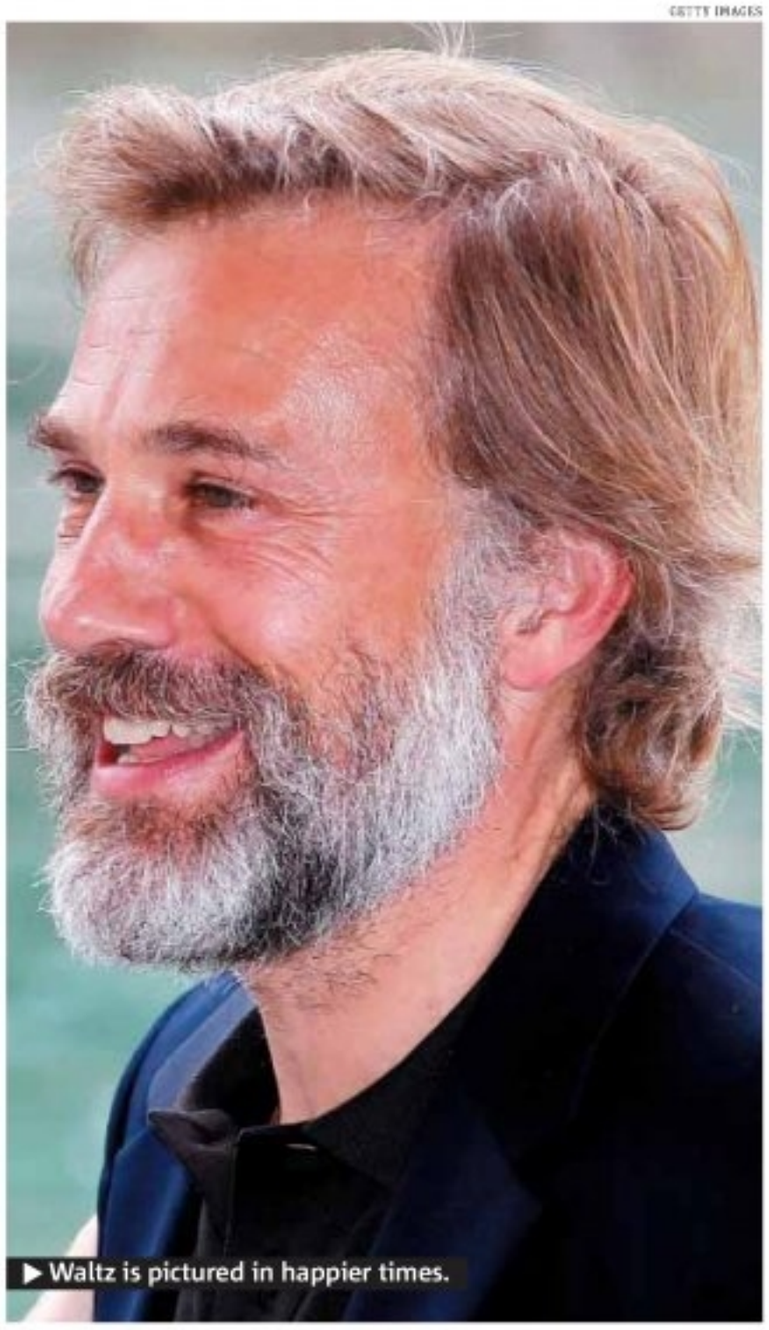
Cantankerous Christoph

Oscar-winning actor Christoph Waltz is self-recognized as crabby Why he can't stand DVD extras and set visits

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Waltz is pictured in happier times.

Christoph Waltz is pretty clear on what he wants an audience to see: exactly what's on the screen, nothing more and nothing less. His latest film is Roman Polanski's "Carnage," about two sets of parents (Waltz and Kate Winslet, and Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly) meeting to discuss their sons' scuffle, and while the project included two weeks of rehearsals, none of it was caught on tape. And that's exactly how Waltz likes it.

"It's rehearsal. If it was filmed, then it wouldn't be rehearsal. Then it would be, you know, film," the Oscar-winning German actor says. "Why would you poke your nose in our rehearsals? Where do we then have our safe space where we try and make fools of ourselves just to fathom what it is we need to do? You need to have a safe space. If it's constantly invaded by outside observers — 'Let's have a press day on set because journalists love it' — well, that day is lost. Not to the journalists, fair enough. But for the movie, actually, it's lost."

Still, rehearsal sessions between the four actors and Polanski would make for an interesting DVD extra — something else Waltz is against. "If I had a say in these things, I would do away with all this behind-the-scenes, making-of rubbish. It's nobody's business," he says. "It's a huge drag, and I try to avoid making-ofs, the [electronic press kits], blah blah. 'Can you explain your character?' Why would I do that? I'm playing it! You explain it to me, because you are watching it."

"Carnage" is the film adaptation of the play Yasmina Reza's "The God of Carnage," which has played Paris and London before moving to Broadway two years ago, with many notable actors taking on roles at different points, including Ralph Fiennes, James Gandolfini, Jeff Daniels and Jimmy Smits. "There's this misconception that Broadway was the original production. No, no, no — let me tell you it wasn't," Waltz says. "I had seen the original, but long ago; and even though I was impressed with the actor who played the part that I play in the movie, I still have my points, because I'm sort of a cantankerous son of a b—," he adds with a chuckle.

And perhaps it's because the character comes from a play first and wasn't created in a Hollywood studio office, but Waltz appreciates the chance to take on a role that's rough around the edges and might antagonize an audience. It's a rare thing these days. "If I wanted to be very polite about it, I'd say there is a tendency to reduce human characters to archetypes," he says. "I don't quite get it. I think the interest in humanity is waning a little bit. I think [it's good] to actually leave the comfort zone in the depiction of a character, rather than make somebody likeable. 'Make him likeable, because the audience will identify.' I disagree. Why identify with an immaculate character that you have nothing to do with, that's so far away?"

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Sympathy for a cell phone addict

Christoph Waltz's lawyer in "Carnage" wears out his welcome with his fellow characters thanks to some obnoxious BlackBerry behavior — interrupting people mid-sentence to take a call, for instance. Naturally, playing such a role has made the actor more sensitive to proper cell phone etiquette. "The day before I came here, my flight was not booked — I didn't know what time to leave the next day. So they said, 'It's being arranged, we'll tell you,'" Waltz remembers. "And I was invited to dinner, so I kept my phone on. ... Every 10 minutes they told me what the current status was. Everybody at that dinner had seen the play, I think. And I said, 'I'm sorry, I need to know. It's terrible, but if I switch it off ...'"

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The feed ...

On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

This week, readers write in to let me know their thoughts on Ryan Seacrest possibly taking over for Matt Lauer on "Today" (consensus: eh!), @tiffanytownsend thanks me for not devoting a day to Lohan fever (they are few and far between, sadly) and @Xanderall! loved last Friday's Twitter mention so much that he's getting more today.

▶ **@CalChemical** Seacrest c/d do Today. For breaking news they c/d cut to a news desk. Today & GMA are barely news reporters anymore.

▶ **@boredgirl260** If Ryan Seacrest is our generations Dick Clark, I officially loathe our generation #seacrestsucks

▶ **@TheSagest** Ryan Seacrest << Dick Clark. In no way is Ryan a journalist, not even on New Years Rockin Eve.

▶ **@Johnheartstype** Reading @dorothyatmetro's column. Anyone else cynically suspicious of how grounded Abigail Breslin is?

▶ **@tiffanytownsend** Thank you for not giving Lindsay Lohan airtime in today's print edition. Thank you.

▶ **@Xanderall!** Imagine my surprise when I came across my tweet on today's Metro! I'm officially a newspaper contributor. Mom will be proud.

@DOROTHYATMETRO FOR UP-TO-DATE GOSSIP

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip **@dorothyatmetro** **dorothy.robinson@metro.us**

Eastwood does reality TV? Unforgiven!

www.metro.us
WWW.METRO.US/WORD
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

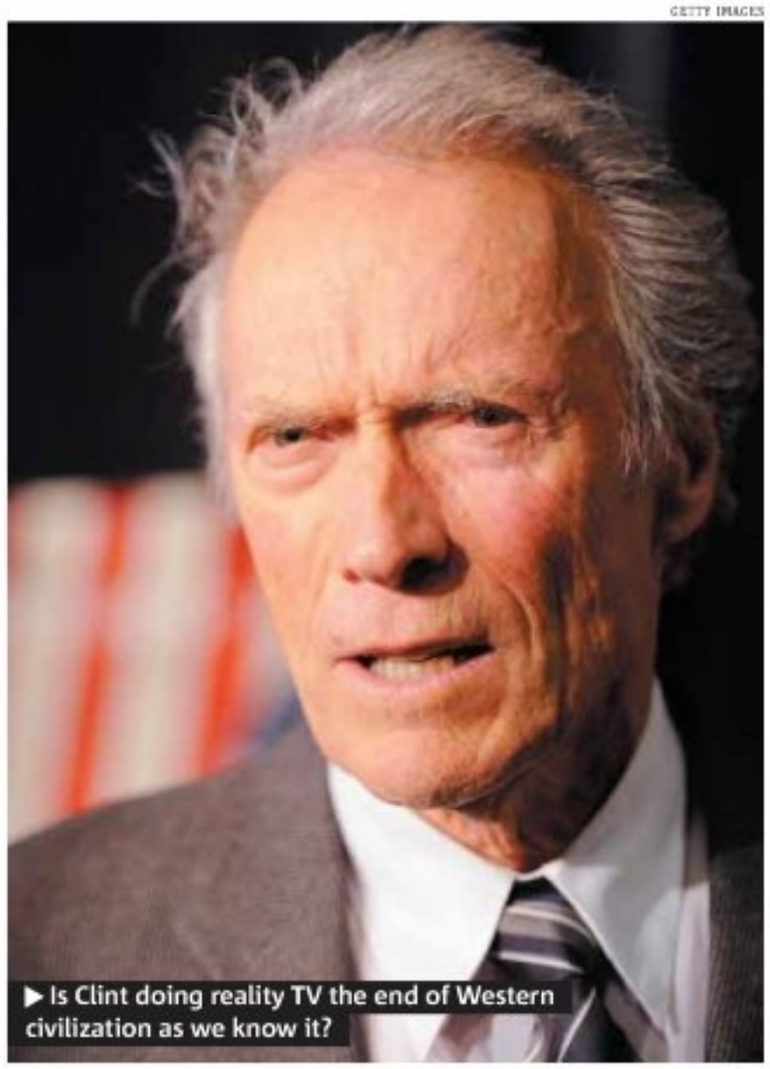
The news that **Clint Eastwood** and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all "Dirty Harry" on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network. (Editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people.)

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife **Dina Eastwood**, their daughter **Morgan** and Clint's 18-year-old daughter **Francesca**. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the **Kardashian** shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up. Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it. It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress. (Second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress.) Come on, Clint. You starred in "Gran Torino" — please don't go down without a fight.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Is Clint doing reality TV the end of Western civilization as we know it?

Talking points

Cyrus: These are real!

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, **Miley Cyrus** is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery. "Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims. "I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

JLo sells off family jewels

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly finding closure after her divorce from **Marc Anthony** and turning a tidy profit at the same time by unloading jewels he'd bought her during their marriage. "JLo also reportedly is quietly selling all the jewelry Anthony gave her — and he gave her quite a lot," a source tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "When Jennifer moves on, she totally moves on." The source also has a cryptic warning for Lopez's current flame, **Casper Smart**, noting that the dancer "will likely discover he will 'disappear' when she tires of him, too."

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cyrus and her "babies"

Show some brotherly love, Justin

This will make for some awkward family time at the holidays: **Justin Biel** — brother of **Jessica** — has taken to Facebook to trash **Justin Timberlake**'s tequila brand, 901 Tequila, and the lack of promotion provided by its famous founder. "I've been waiting for [Timberlake] to do something with this f—ing brand — make a song about it, put it in a godd— video, hold it up, take some pictures, I don't care. Just do something because we're dying on the motherf—ing vine here," Justin Biel says in the video. He reportedly parted ways with 901 Tequila a few weeks ago. The company is trying to make the best of it, insisting the rant was for a viral video promotional campaign that was released too early.

Clooney's tips for animal domination

George Clooney admits he wasn't afraid to play dirty to win the affections of his dog, Einstein, rescued from a shelter. Clooney had been warned that he wouldn't be allowed to adopt the dog if it didn't like him, he explains in an interview with Esquire. "I open the gate for them, and I start to panic that Einstein is not going to like me," Clooney says. "So I run into the kitchen, where I have these turkey meatballs, and I rub them all over my shoes. This woman opens the door, and who knew Einstein was such a food whore on top of everything? He throws himself at my feet."

You gotta wonder, is this also the secret to his infinite sex appeal toward women? Not gonna lie: It would work for me.

Clooney, meatball man

Dapper dudes of 2011

Last Friday, Metro featured the top dresses of 2011. This week, we look at the gentlemen who suited up to become the most dapper gents of the year.

1. What's a roundup of hot guys without Ryan Gosling? Here the actor channels some 1950s charm on the set of "Gangster Squad" in Los Angeles, Calif., in November.

2. David Beckham may not have won the Sexiest Man Alive accolade, but he certainly is one hot papi. The father of four attended the 2011 VH1 Do Something Awards with his eldest son, Brooklyn, in Hollywood, Calif., in August.

3. Who could actually pull off a suit paired with only a V-neck basic tee? Only Taylor Lautner (hello, jawlines!). Here he is at the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn— Part 1" in Barcelona, Spain, last month.

4. An art lover and a super hottie? Yes, please. A bow-tied Ryan Kwanten attended the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art and Film Gala Honoring Clint Eastwood and John Baldessari in Los Angeles, Calif., last month.

5. It would be blasphemous if we didn't include Bradley Cooper on this page. Here, People's Sexiest Man Alive attended The Moet British Independent Film Awards at Old Billingsgate Market in London, England, in early December.

6. While we're not particularly thrilled about his selection of glasses, Chris Evans' suit held its own at the premiere of "Captain America: The First Avenger" in Hollywood, Calif., in July.

7. Also spotted at the LACMA event was the always-handsome Zac Efron. Efron, 24, (those Disney teen idols sure age fast!) will next be seen on the silver screen in "The Lucky One," in which he plays an ex-Marine sergeant. Efron goes military? We welcome 2012 with open arms.

1: LORY AYALA/BUZZFOTO/FILMMAGIC
2: KEVEN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3: MIQUEL BENITEZ/GETTY IMAGES
4: JORDAN STRAUSS/WIREIMAGE
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Broadway for the holidays

Every New Yorker has been there: Your family is in town, and they want you to take them to a Broadway play. You're supposed to tell them what's worth the ticket price. And unless you're really on the ball, those "Book of Mormon" tickets are probably not going to open up before 2012 (sorry). So are you prepared for the holiday rush of family and friends, aka those tourists sleeping on your couch? Here are your best (realistic) bets for guests of all ages and tastes.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

JEREMY DANIEL

▶ This creepy, kooky clan is led by Roger Rees (Gomez) and Brooke Shields (Morticia), center. Find an interview with dance captain Reed Kelly at www.metro.us/wellplayed.

'The Addams Family'

Name checking: Brooke Shields, Roger Rees, Brad Oscar
Pros: This macabre clan makes your family seem normal — plus you get to meet a few new friends when Wednesday's beau and his parents drop by for dinner. Enjoy fun props, a killer set and plenty of tongue-in-cheek humor. Children will especially enjoy the silly stunts, and there's a love story unconventional enough that even teens might not roll their eyes.
Cons: The songs are only so-so, and a spooky, stunning ensemble is sadly underused.
Through Dec. 31; www.theaddamsfamily musical.com

'War Horse'

Talking points: Steven Spielberg's film comes out Dec. 25
Pros: It works for those who don't "do" musicals. And the horses are magical for kids old enough to cope with war themes.
Cons: You could just see the movie. But you'll want to see those amazing puppets and the talented crew that brings them to life.
Open run; www.warhorseonbroadway.com

▶ Daniel Radcliffe, left, and John Laroquette star in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying'

Name checking: Daniel Radcliffe and John Laroquette (through Jan. 3)
Pros: If catching those stars isn't enough to appeal to the young and old alike, we suggest going for the high-spirited storyline that serves up good ol' fashioned song and dance at its best.
Cons: This one offers no surprises, but it's an all-around safe bet.
Open run; www.howtosucceedbroadway.com

'Sister Act'

Talking points: Composed by Alan Menken and produced by Whoopi Goldberg
Pros: We guarantee you'll leave the theater singing one of your new favorite show tunes — and you'll have several from which to choose.
Cons: "Sister Act" follows the exact same plot as the titular movie. But hey, it's set in the '70s this time.
Open run; www.sisteractbroadway.com

'Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark'

Talking points: With the shocking costs, delayed opening, fired director and injured stuntmen (plural), there are plenty of conversation-starters surrounding this pick.
Pros: Everyone will love the high-flying numbers and innovative set. Plus, Spider-Man is pretty easy on the eyes. So expect happy shrieks from the little ones — and some of the ladies in your group, too.
Cons: Marvel fans won't find anything new, here. It's easy to be intellectually underwhelmed thanks to a one-dimensional story trapped in a 3-D world that's trying too hard to be 2-D.
Open run; www.spidermanonbroadway.marvel.com

JACOB COHL

▶ Reeve Carney stars in "Spider-Man."

ABT's streamlined 'Nutcracker' replaces sugar with surprises

A new interpretation of the classic tale, now onstage at BAM, still entertains audiences, even though it's not as saccharine

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For the second year, a little boy (Justin Souriau-Levine) walks away with Alexei Ratmansky's "Nutcracker" at BAM — and that is how it should be. Playing a white mouse, the kid is a trickster, appearing in unlikely places and literally pulling people's legs.

Ratmansky's version of the Tchaikovsky ballet keeps its focus on the younger set. American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School provides dozens of children who kick up their heels at the first-act party and glory in Richard Hudson's jewel-like costumes in the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Hudson's innovative designs keep everything a little off-balance, from the tippy house on the front-cloth to the huge chair from which Clara, played opening night by young Mikaela Kelly, surveys the war in her parlor between big white rats and toy soldiers. A startling kitchen scene introduces us to the main characters and the matter-of-fact predation of the rats.

Delightfully gawky Veronika Part dances adult Princess Clara with bubbly delight, towering over her Prince, Marcelo Gomes, the same way teenage Kelly does over Theodore Ellliman as the Nutcracker. Sudden changes in scale and climate keep the production scary and interesting, as when 24 Snowflake ballerinas in a birch forest create a blizzard that separates the young lovers. The Arabian variation, usually the domain of a sultry female, is camped up by bare-chested Sascha Radetsky and his harem of scolding wives.

Ratmansky's "Nutcracker" provides an astringent antidote to the many too-sweet versions around town, creating a dance universe that is child-centered and sophisticated at once.

GENE SCHIAVONE

▶ Snowflake ballerinas grace the stage in "The Nutcracker."

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This little zombie wants brains

‘Hey Little Zombie!’ stars a picky eater with one thing on his mind ◗ James Olstein on his new book

Zombies have come a long way over the past couple of years, especially for zombies. But not once during their clumsy ascent to the pop-culture monster throne did they ever betray even a flicker of cuteness — until now.

The just-grotesque-enough brainchild of James Olstein, “Hey Little Zombie!” marks the undead darling’s debut in the world of children’s books. We hit up the Philly-based designer because, come on, who puts zombies in bedtime stories?

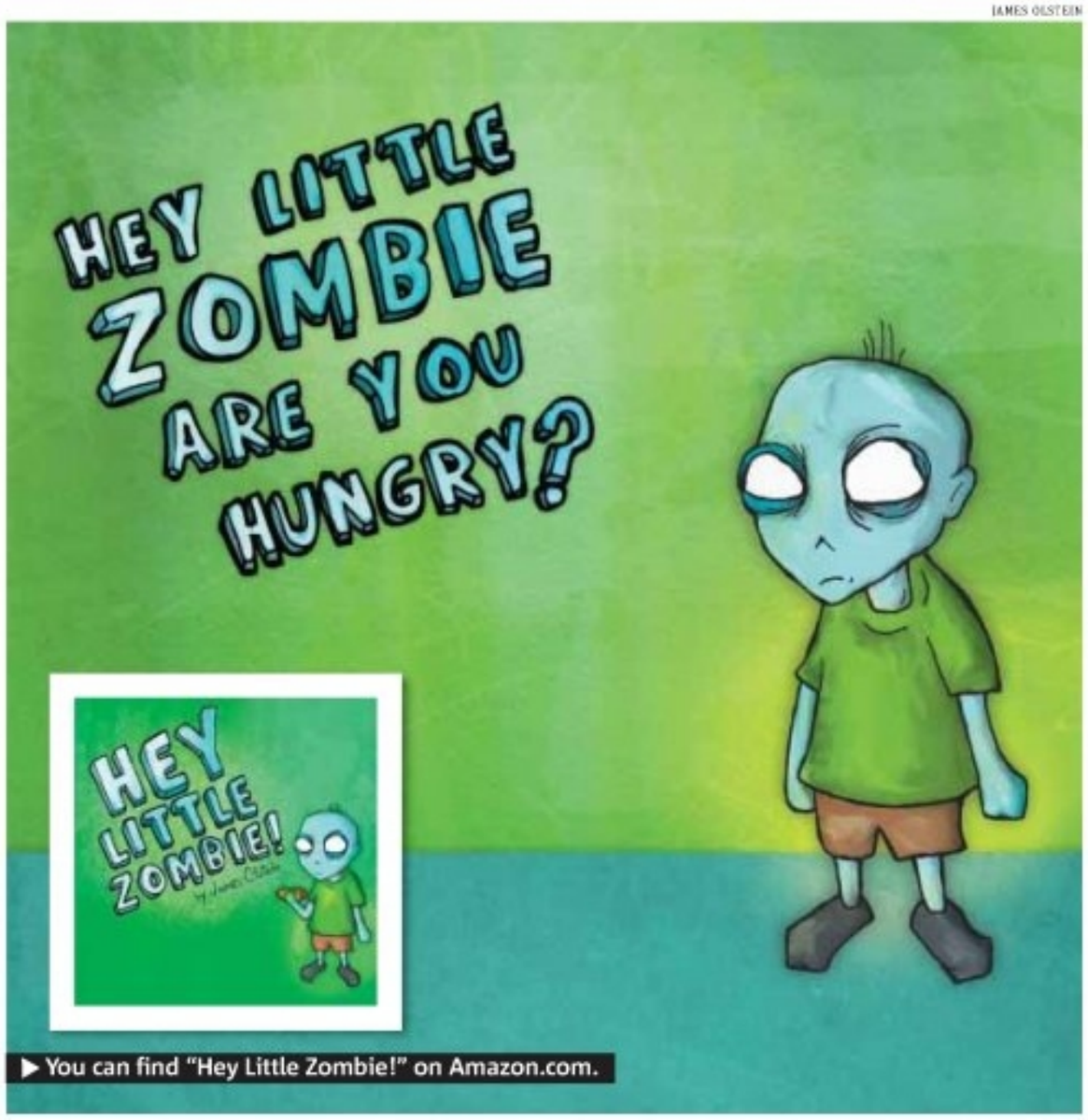
There are a lot of cool monsters out there. Why a zombie for your first book?
I was always super into monster stories growing up. One year on Thanksgiving, I remember some older cousins watching “Day of the Dead.” And I wasn’t allowed to watch it, but I did catch on that if you got bitten, you became a zombie. I thought, “Wow, what an easy way to be a monster.” Anyone can be a zombie.

Your hungry little zombie has a strong personality. Where did he come from?
It really just started as a thing to see if I could do it. But as I started drawing this character, he kind of ended up having this persistent, grumpy personality. And so it’s not so much a children’s book about eating brains — it’s a children’s book about being grumpy.

Did you hold back anything for the kids?
I just wrote it for someone in their 20s or 30s. Kids, I don’t know how else to say this, but they’re great bulls— detectors if you try to talk down to them.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

JAMES OLSTEIN



▶ You can find “Hey Little Zombie!” on Amazon.com.

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Pudding is taking the cake

Weekend recipe

Sticky toffee pudding

This popular dessert — a combination of dates, brown sugar and toffee sauce — is undoubtedly British and extremely delicious.

Ingredients for the cake:

½ pound dates, pitted and coarsely chopped (about 1 ¼ cups)
½ cup water
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
8 tablespoons unsalted butter (1 stick), at room temperature
1 cup packed light brown sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs, at room temperature

For the toffee sauce:

6 tablespoons unsalted butter (¾ stick)
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla extract or 1/2 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and seeds scraped
¼ cup heavy cream

Instructions for the cake:

1 Heat the oven to 350°F and arrange a rack in the middle. Coat eight (6-ounce) ramekins with butter and flour; set aside.

2 Combine dates, water and baking soda in a small saucepan over high heat. Bring to a boil, then remove from heat and set aside.

3 Place salt and flour in a medium bowl, whisk to combine and set aside. Bring a medium pot of water to a simmer over high heat for a water bath.

▶ Difficulty: Medium | Total time: 1 hour, 30 minutes
Active time: 45 minutes | Makes: Eight servings

4 Combine butter and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment and beat on medium speed until light and airy, about five minutes, stopping occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl.

5 Add vanilla extract, then beat in eggs one at a time, just until incorporated. Remove the bowl from the mixer and stir in date mixture until well combined, then stir in flour mixture until just incorporated (don't overmix).

6 Divide batter evenly among prepared ramekins and set them in a roasting pan or baking dish (you likely need to use both a 13-by-9 dish and an 8-by-8 dish to fit them all). Pour simmering water into the bottom of the baking dishes until it reaches halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Very carefully place the baking dishes on the center rack of the oven. Bake until the center of each cake is just set and a cake tester stuck into the middle comes out clean, 50 to 60 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the toffee sauce.

For the toffee sauce:

1 Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. When it foams, add brown sugar and vanilla extract or seeds, stir once and heat until bubbling and the color of maple syrup, about five minutes.

2 Carefully add cream in a slow stream while stirring, and cook until the sauce bubbles up and increases in volume, about two minutes; remove from heat.

3 When the cakes are finished, remove the ramekins from the oven and place on a cooling rack to come to room temperature. Once the cakes are cool, run a knife around the perimeter of each and invert to remove from the ramekins, then place upright on a serving plate. Serve the cakes at room temperature or slightly warmed, covered in warm toffee sauce.

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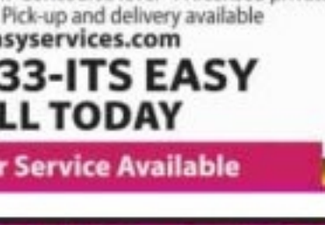

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Is Worship Supposed to Impress People or God?

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."
John 4:24

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THE RUNDOWN

Metro's guide to what's happening in your city this week

JARED BARBOZA

Channel your inner David Bowie (this is the real Bowie, circa 1973) at Saturday night's Bowieball.

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Yelp's Giftacular Holiday Market
Saturday and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., 82 Mercer St., free
For the inaugural holiday market, Yelp has handpicked over 80 top-rated retailers, designers and crafters to display and sell their wares — which range in price from thrifty to expensive. DJs are set to spin, musicians are slated to play, wrappers are primed to disguise gifts and vendors like Mimi and Coco, Macaron Parlour and Tumbador Chocolate are ready to provide immediate hunger remedies. The event's charitable sponsor, Housing Works, is also prepared to accept donations of gently or unworn items onsite. Having all the proper fixings, this free two-day afternoon browse fest is exactly the kind event we like to yelp about. MINDY BOND

Advertising
To advertise your event here, please contact:
Ed Abrams,
executive sales director,
646-792-8034
ed.abrams@metro.us

Music

Bowieball: The Ultimate Glam Rock Revolution
Saturday, 11 p.m., (Le) Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St., $15-$20
In NYC, some residents live the BowieBall every day. Spandex? Check. Fabulous makeup? Check. Platforms? Definitely; just another Wednesday. But just think of how insanely over-the-top those folks will be for tonight's bash. Deryck Todd brings the glam to (Le) Poisson Rouge, with Lady Rizo, LeRoi the Girl Boy, Amber Ray, Bridget Everett, Andrew Watt and more. So if you think, "Oh God, I could do better than that," come prove it at LPR, Queen B—. LEAH TAYLOR

Voices of Ascension
Sunday, 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave., $60
The glorious choir of unaccompanied voices performs Renaissance Nativity motets, classical favorites and modern arrangements of timeless carols. In response to a recent concert, The New York Times noted the "The Voices of Ascension Chorus . . . presents some of the most consistently polished and satisfying choral performances in New York City . . . sheer musical excellence." The concert will be held in front of the Met Museum's Christmas Tree and Neapolitan Baroque Creche in the Medieval Sculpture Hall.

Mark O'Connor's Christmas Revue Show
Wednesday, 10 p.m., (Le) Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St., $15
Get your holiday merrymaking started early! Mark O'Connor is throwing a party in support of his first holiday album, "An Appalachian Christmas." Featuring collaborations with Renee Fleming, Sharon Isbin, Alison Krauss, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Monheit, James Taylor, Chris Thile, Steve Wariner and more, "An Appalachian Christmas" presents rare tracks available for the first time in years as well as new recordings. Mark will be joined at (Le) Poisson Rouge by many of his musician friends for a joyful night of music and good cheer!

Films

'One People (Wam Pipel)'
Sunday, 8:30 p.m., Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, $11
Premiere Roy is a young black Surinamese studying in Amsterdam. When he learns that his mother is dying, he borrows money from his Dutch girlfriend to return home. There, he scandalizes everyone when he begins a relationship with Rubia, a Hindu. Will Roy stay with Rubia and remain in his newly independent homeland, or will he follow his family's wishes and return to Holland? A classic Caribbean film, Suriname's first feature-length drama, recently and lovingly restored.

Food

Cookie Takedown
Sunday, 3 p.m., The Bell House, 149 Seventh St., Brooklyn, $15
December contains one of our favorite holidays, and no, it's not Christmas or Hanukkah. It's bake cookies day! That's right, Dec. 18 is a batter day and one of the best ways to celebrate is by leaving the baking to others and going to Matt Timms' legendary cookie-pocalypse-themed takedown. If you haven't witnessed the spectacle, this takedown is a battle of local dough dabblers who eagerly throw their pastry hats in the ring with the hope of being crowned king (or queen) baker by cookie consumers. For this round, attendees are treated to 30 entries and an hour of eggnog. MINDY BOND

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For more, go to: www.flavorpill.com

CASINO LISTINGS

Atlantic City

Music

Jackie Evancho
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort
$45-$95, 609-449-5150
www.trumptaj.com

Nero
Saturday, 10 p.m.
House of Blues in Showboat
$23-$28, 609-343-5700
www.showboatac.com

GETTY IMAGES

Jackie Evancho

Family

Brunch with Santa
Through Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Atlantic City Country Club
$15-$30, 609 236-4421
www.caesars.com
A professional photographer will take pictures of the kids with Santa while the family enjoys a Sunday brunch.

Cirque Polynesian Holiday Show
Through Dec. 22
Resorts Casino Hotel
$25, 609-340-6300
www.resortsac.com
Authentic Polynesian warriors, fire-eaters and hula dancers will perform, along with Cirque acrobats.

CONTRIBUTED BY
Atlantic City always turned on
For more information, visit the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority at www.atlanticcitynj.com and click on Calendar for event details.

Spirit of Christmas
Through Dec. 21
Tropicana Casino And Resort
$25-$35, 609-340-4020
www.tropicana.net
This New York-style Christmas spectacular features glittering costumes, a dazzling cast and the highest kicking chorus girls this side of the North Pole.

Sports

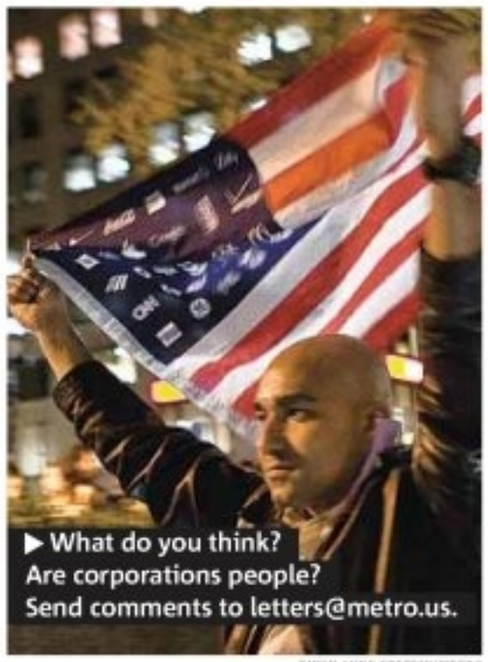
Super Six — The Final: Andre Ward vs. Carl Froch
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall
www.boardwalkhall.com
After a two-year grueling journey, the winner of this high stakes matchup will claim both world championship belts, the vacant The Ring magazine championship and the inaugural Super Six World Boxing Classic Cup.

2011: POWER TO THE PEOPLE?

The Week That Was: Opinion

As the year of the protester draws to a close, the fight to define humanity begins in earnest. With more U.S. citizens feeling more estranged than ever from their government representatives, many have risen to condemn the excesses of politicians' principal benefactors: the powerful corporations whose funds fuel campaigns and twist legislative policy to favor their bottom lines at the expense of all else.

In Jan. 2010, the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* gave these legal entities rights previously granted only to living, breathing human beings. The U.S. high court turned campaign finance on its head by equating corporations and people, turning money into free speech.



▶ What do you think? Are corporations people? Send comments to letters@metro.us.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Of course, corporations are not actually people. For one, they cannot truly die. Take the case of private security firm Blackwater: After nasty allegations of mass murder in Iraq, the firm simply changed its name to Xe. Later, following a government settlement over unlawful international arms deals, the company switched names again, to Academi. Despite a plethora of other criminal allegations, this organization still makes millions through lucrative government contracts.

Can a corporation facilitate murder? (Yes.) Can a corporation be sentenced to prison? (No.) Can a corporation cause pain? (Yes.) Can a corporation feel pain? (No.)

Do corporations have an inordinate amount of power over our political process? (Yes.) Are we going to stand for it? (...)

BRAYDEN SIMMS
brayden.simms@metro.us

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because your financial aspects are looking so encouraging at this time, you should look for new ways to better your lot in life. Don't waste this chance.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** An important upcoming involvement that includes a number of your friends will benefit if you take the reins. Everyone realizes this and won't make any bids for the top slot.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Some kind of financial matter that you've viewed with distaste could make an abrupt turnaround for the better. There's a lesson to be learned from this.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A role reversal is likely to take place between you and someone who has long served as your instructor. You have some valuable information that they will want to learn from you.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** A pleasant surprise could be in the making for you. From out of nowhere, a debt or a reward that you thought would never be met will be paid in full.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you might not be very lucky on your own, someone you're with will be, and this person's good fortune is likely to rub off on you. Choose your companions with this in mind.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Wishful thinking might not be a frivolous pastime if it influences you to transform your fantasies into realities. Make your dreams count.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's OK for your mind to operate on a philosophical level, because it could make you more effective and able to see past the mere outward appearance of things.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You're likely to finally perceive how to circumvent some kind of stumbling block that has been vexing you in your work. Make your move with vim and gusto.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Continue to just be yourself, because it encourages you to do and say all the right things. The residual effects will be an increase in your popularity with your friends and workmates.

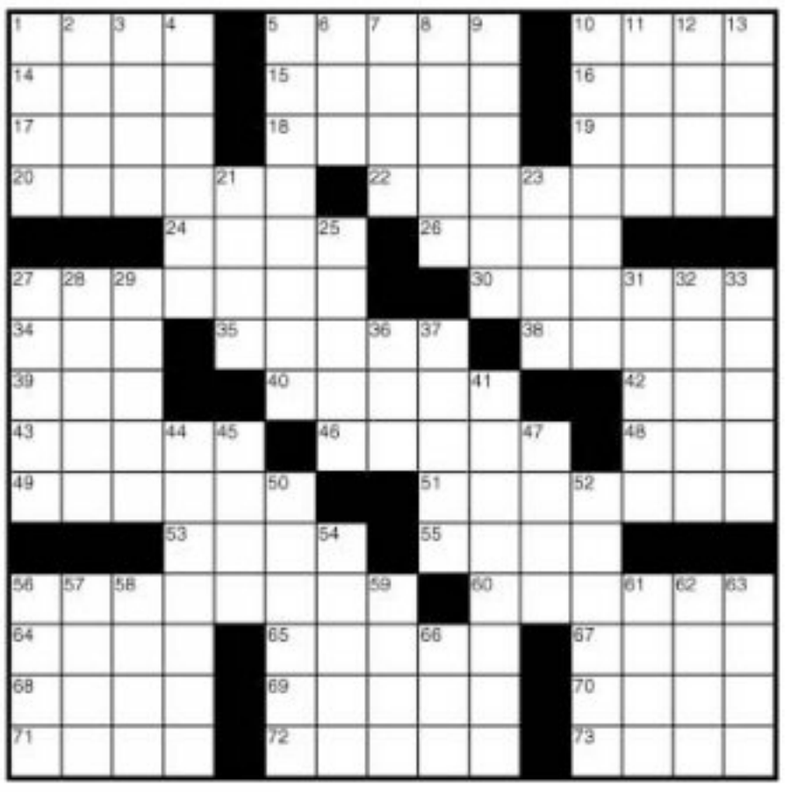
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When it comes to matters that pertain to your work, don't hesitate to improvise your way out of dilemmas. The way you handle things will be both constructive and resourceful.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Smoother sailing is finally ahead, because the measures you take are likely to instill harmony in several areas of your life that have proven to be a bit tempestuous lately. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

GO TO... METRO.US/GAMES
FOR MORE GAMES & PUZZLES

Across
1 Feeling of hunger
5 Opted for
10 Dinner checks
14 Aquarius' tote
15 Poe's visitor
16 Earthenware jar
17 Dry riverbed
18 Work by Homer
19 Subatomic particle
20 Computer network
22 Football play(2 wds.)
24 Spruce
26 Embodiment of grace
27 Ravines
30 Ski trails
34 Turkish potentate
35 Soy or Worcestershire
38 High-priced
39 Nanny's charge
40 Big cats
42 Opposite of post-
43 Vote in
46 Kind of eclipse
48 Feminine principle
49 Soap opera
51 Passed by
53 Any thing
55 Long-handled tool
56 Surfeits
60 Get back
64 Tot of whiskey
65 Asian capital
67 Pita sandwich
68 California wine valley
69 Piano exercise
70 Director __ Kazan
71 Skippers' OKs
72 Wearing vestments
73 Hurry

Down
1 Hard benches
2 Not at home
3 Rorem and Beatty
4 Like sand
5 Felon
6 Fictional supercomputer
7 Ancient Roman poet
8 Blackens
9 Provides funds
10 Bun
11 Et __ (and others)
12 Coalition
13 Holed, as a putt
21 Piccadilly statue
23 Comrades
25 Astronaut's garb (hyph.)
27 Birthday treats
28 Limber
29 Consumer voice
31 Prolific diarist
32 Spine-tingling
33 Go shopping
36 Sweet murmur
37 "__ the Dragon"
41 On the payroll
44 Movies
45 Southwest art colony
47 Trout habitat
50 More luxuriant
52 Fastened down a tent
54 Groovy
56 Best or Ferber
57 Fracture photo (hyph.)
58 Promontory
59 Slight
61 Jean Auel heroine
62 Late spring flower
63 Wordy Webster
66 Poem by Keats



	9	8			3		6	2
		7	1	2			9	3
						4		
		6			5		8	
			6		9			
	5		4			1		
		2						
9	6			7	1	5		
3	1		9			2	4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

1		6			8	3	5	
		4		3			8	
			5					4
	2	5	3				9	1
4	9				7	2	3	
5					2			
	8			1		5		
	6	2	8			9		7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

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Know the 90 percent rule

Oddsmakers are smarter than the public, or "square" bettors. So if you see a line that seems too good to be true, it probably is.

We can quantify trap games by looking at consensus data. According Sportsinsights.com, there are three NFL games this weekend in which 90 percent of the wagers are coming in on one side. The Packers over the Chiefs, the Saints over the Vikings and the Bengals over the Rams.

However, the oddsmakers haven't adjusted their lines on these contests. That's because pro, or "sharp" bettors are betting the dogs. They know the lines on road favorites are inflated because the public is going to pound teams like the Packers no matter what.

Get on the 10 percent side this week. In the long run, you'll have the edge.

ADAM LEVITAN

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PICKS, TRICKS AND MORE

Coughlin counts on team's belief

As Redskins come to MetLife Stadium, coach hopes adversity pays off ● Team not taking four-win Skins lightly ● Hope to avoid Dallas letdown

The Redskins come to Met Life Stadium in their customary role of spoilers, as it's been a long time since this once proud franchise had anything to play for beyond the month of December.

But even as the struggling Redskins (4-9) come into town losers of eight of their last nine games, Giants head coach Tom Coughlin warned his team to not take them lightly. Any divisional game is worth worrying about, Coughlin told his team.

"Don't be fooled by their record," Coughlin said. "They've taken literally most all their games down to the wire. They're a good football team — 17th on offense, 10th on defense. This is a very exciting time of the year, a divisional game. They play hard every week."

New York is certainly aware of the type of game this will be and enter the matchup with their guards up. To a man, they've assured no more playing down to the competition and taking an inferior opponent lightly.

"Not this game because of what's at stake and everybody knows what's on the line," said strongside linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka. "I think after the way we won last week we're going to do everything we can to not let that [letdown] happen. Playing [down] to the competition question is not a factor."

Kiwanuka said he expects an all-out fight from the scrappy Redskins.

"When you're playing in the division it's much tougher because they know you and you know them," Kiwanuka said. "It's just about going out there and beating the other person up. It's going to be a good game."

Coughlin added that every time they've faced the Redskins it's been a battle of attrition.

"I hope that all the years and all the mental attitude type things that we've tried to instill in our guys [like] mental toughness, the physical toughness part of it, the belief in who you are and what you're attempting to accomplish and the idea that it's all about team has sunk in," Coughlin said.

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Giants have all said they won't let the unbelievable win in Dallas lead to a letdown.

On the air Sunday
Giants vs. Redskins
1 p.m., FOX5

In the AFC

STANDINGS	
EAST	
PATRIOTS	10-3
JETS	8-5
BILLS	5-8
DOLPHINS	4-9
NORTH	
RAVENS	10-3
STEELERS	10-3
BENGALS	7-6
BROWNS	4-9
SOUTH	
Z - TEXANS	10-3
TITANS	7-6
JAGUARS	4-9
COLTS	0-13
WEST	
BRONCOS	8-5
RAIDERS	7-6
CHARGERS	6-7
CHIEFS	5-8

In the NFC

STANDINGS	
EAST	
GIANTS	7-6
COWBOYS	7-6
EAGLES	5-8
REDSKINS	4-9
NORTH	
Z- PACKERS	13-0
LIONS	8-5
BEARS	7-6
VIKINGS	2-11
SOUTH	
Y - SAINTS	10-3
FALCONS	8-5
PANTHERS	4-9
BUCCANEERS	4-9
WEST	
Z- 49ERS	10-3
SEAHAWKS	6-7
CARDINALS	6-7
RAMS	2-11

Z- CLINCHED DIVISION
Y - CLINCHED PLAYOFF

The cold, hard football facts

A look at this weekend's NFL action through the eyes of the football stat experts at Coldhardfootballfacts.com.

Big boys thriving on home turfs

If two teams are evenly matched, the home team will generally be favored by three. Is this theory legit? It certainly is for the NFL's elite. You could argue that the Patriots, Ravens, Steelers, Colts and Packers are the five best teams of the past decade. Well, they're also the five best NFL teams at home since 2000, per CHFF point-spread analyst Mark Wald.

- **New England**
  .787, home win percentage
  .649, away win percentage
- **Baltimore**
  .755, home win percentage
  .447, away win percentage
- **Pittsburgh**
  .718, home win percentage
  .606, away win percentage
- **Indianapolis**
  .702, home win percentage
  .628, away win percentage
- **Green Bay**
  .699, home win percentage
  .547, away win percentage

FFchamps.com's 'Start and Sit'

- **Start him**
  WAS RB Roy Helu at NY
  Averages 111 rushing yards over the last three games, and should remain a homestretch hero for fantasy owners against a Giants defense that is getting pushed around for 127 rushing yards per battle.
- **Sit him**
  PITT RB Rashard Mendenhall, at San Fran
  Performed below expectations with 76 rushing yards versus a pushover Cleveland run defense. And we're not willing to roll the dice on him against San Francisco's No. 1 run defense on their home turf on Monday Night Football.

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHAMPS
FFChamps.com

WEEKEND FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE — COLLEGE BOWL PICKS!

COWBOYS 7-6 at BUCS 4-9

SATURDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: Bucs +7 (O/U 47)
The Scoop: As bad as Tony Romo's record is in December, we're not laying any tuition money on Tampa.
Pick: Cowboys

PACKERS 13-0 at CHIEFS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Chiefs +13.5 (O/U 46)
The Scoop: If Aaron Rodgers isn't enough to sell you, how about: Pack is 8-2 ATS in last 10 in December.
Pick: Packers

PANTHERS 4-9 at TEXANS 10-3

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Texans -6.5 (O/U 45)
The Scoop: Team Cam is 4-0 ATS in last four games — plus they rarely get blown out this year.
Pick: Panthers

SEAHAWKS 6-7 at BEARS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bears -3.5 (O/U 36)
The Scoop: Bears D too good, bet the under — but take 'Hawks (7-1 ATS in last eight vs. NFC teams).
Pick: Seahawks

SAINTS 10-3 at VIKINGS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Vikings +6.5 (O/U 51.5)
The Scoop: Call it a hunch, Saints are 3-11 vs. teams with losing records.
Pick: Vikings

BENGALS 7-6 at RAMS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Rams +6.5 (O/U 40)
The Scoop: We could devote a full page to why the Rams can't win or cover, but you've seen them play.
Pick: Bengals

DOLPHINS 4-9 at BILLS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bills +1.5 (O/U OFF)
The Scoop: Both teams have thrown in the towel. When in doubt, go with the home (snow?) dog.
Pick: Bills

TITANS 7-6 at COLTS 0-13

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Colts +6.5 (O/U 41)
The Scoop: Titans 4-1 ATS in last four roadies, plus Colts are 1-4 ATS in last four as home underdogs.
Pick: Titans

REDSKINS 4-9 at GIANTS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Giants -7 (O/U 46.5)
The Scoop: 'Skins won the first meeting and are 5-1 ATS in last six vs. NFC East. Hope for wind ...
Pick: Redskins

LIONS 8-5 at RAIDERS 7-6

SUNDAY, 4:05 P.M.

Line: Raiders +1 (O/U 47.5)
The Scoop: Black Hole be damned. Lions have Ndamukong Suh.
Pick: Lions

Patriots at Broncos (4:15 p.m. Sunday)

TV: CBS
LINE: Broncos +6.5 (O/U 46)

KEY INJURIES: S Brian Dawkins (neck), CB Andre Goodman (concussion) questionable. WR Eddie Royal (concussion), LB Von Miller (thumb) probable. S Patrick Chung (foot) out. CB Kyle Arrington (foot), WR Deion Branch (groin), LB Brandon Spikes (knee), CB Devin McCourty (shoulder) questionable.

THE SCOOP: This one might get higher ratings than the Super Bowl, as the Chosen One (Tim Tebow) faces the Hooded One (Bill Belichick). It's the ultimate battle between good and evil. Who wins? Well, the Pats, under Belichick are 3-6 all-time versus Denver, including three straight losses at Mile High. What's that tell us?
It's Tebow Time.

PICK: Broncos

BROWNS 4-9 at CARDINALS 6-7

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Cardinals -6.5 (O/U 37)
The Scoop: Watch the line. It could change dramatically if QB Colt McCoy (concussion) is ruled out for Cleveland. With or without him, we still like the Brownies to cover against mediocre Arizona. Cleveland is 8-2 ATS in last 10 when getting at least 3.5 points on the road. Did we mention Arizona isn't that good?
Pick: Browns

JETS 8-5 at EAGLES 5-8

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Eagles -3 (O/U 44)
The Scoop: We can't explain this line, at all. It's inexplicable. While we know the Jets have gone 0-8 against the Eagles all-time, we also know that the Jets are 15-3 in their last 18 roadies and the Birds are 1-8 SU in their last nine at home. Plus, Mike Vick isn't 100 percent and playing with a pair of sore ribs.
Pick: Jets

RAVENS 10-3 at CHARGERS 6-7

SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M.

Line: Chargers +3 (O/U 44.5)
The Scoop: San Diego is 4-9 ATS this year and 2-6 ATS in their last eight games. Ravens win comfortably.
Pick: Ravens

STEELERS 10-3 at 49ERS 10-3

MONDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: n/a
The Scoop: Off the board until we know if Big Ben plays. It's doubtful. Stay away even if he's cleared.
Pick: Steelers

ND 8-4 at FSU 8-4

DEC. 29, 5:30 P.M.

Line: Florida State -3
The Scoop: The Seminoles are playing in their home state for the Champs Sports Bowl.
Pick: Florida State

RUTGERS 8-4 at IOWA ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 3:20 P.M.

Line: Rutgers -2
The Scoop: The Pinstripe Bowl is right in the Knights' backyard, so they'll be motivated.
Pick: Rutgers

WAKE 6-6 at MISS ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 6:40 P.M.

Line: Mississippi State -7
The Scoop: The Music City Mediocrity Bowl! Go SEC.
Pick: Mississippi State

IOWA 7-5 at OKLAHOMA NO. 14, 9-3

DEC. 30, 10 P.M.

Line: Oklahoma -10
The Scoop: Oklahoma didn't expect to be playing in the Insight Bowl. Still they're much better.
Pick: Oklahoma

UTAH 7-5 at GA TECH 8-4

DEC. 31, 2 P.M.

Line: Georgia Tech -3.5
The Scoop: The Sun Bowl is always a sneaky good game. We go with the BCS conference school here.
Pick: Georgia Tech

UCLA 6-7 at ILLINOIS 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Illinois -3
The Scoop: Illinois has lost five straight. The Fight Hunger Bowl is in San Fran, let's go with the Cali boys.
Pick: UCLA

CINCINNATI 9-3 at VANDERBILT 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Vanderbilt -3
The Scoop: The Liberty Bowl is in Memphis, but total Big East disrespect here.
Pick: Cincinnati

VIRGINIA 8-4 at AUBURN NO. 25, 7-5

DEC. 31, 7:30 P.M.

Line: Auburn -1.5
The Scoop: Michael Dyer was suspended, but we still like the SEC.
Pick: Auburn

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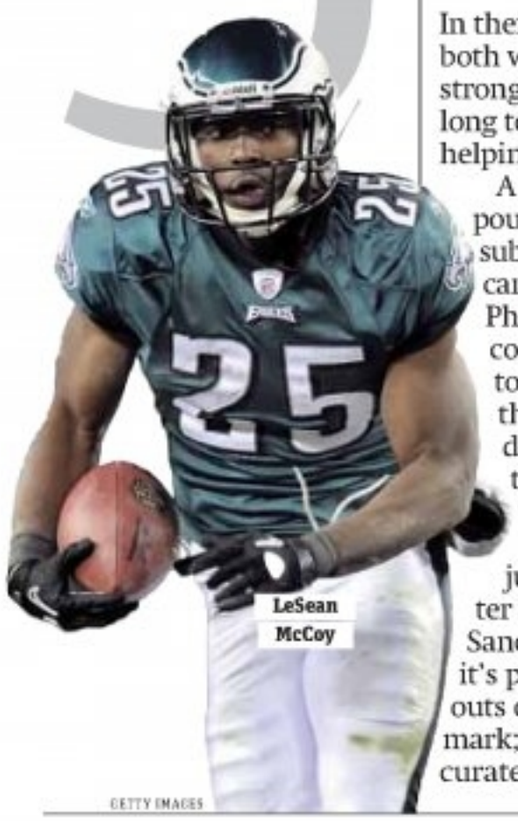
Storylines to watch

Week 15: Jets at Eagles, Lincoln Financial Field
When: Sunday, 4:15 p.m., CBS Next: vs. NYG (12/24)


LeSean McCoy
GETTY IMAGES

1 Can the Jets continue to start out hot?

In their last two games, both wins, the Jets started strong on offense, with long touchdown drives helping to set the tone.

A 77-yard drive helped pound the Chiefs into submission in what became a laugher. In Philadelphia, the Jets could use a strong start to take the fight out of the 5-8 Eagles. Smart decisions from quarterback Mark Sanchez will be key.

"I think we're all just playing a lot better across the board," Sanchez said. "Whether it's protection or wide outs on the right landmark; me being more accurate, whatever it is."

2 This running back is the real McCoy

Not much has gone right for the Eagles this year, but the one thing that has is running back LeSean McCoy, who with 1,172 yards and 14 rushing touchdowns has already set career highs.

The third-year running back out of Pitt is developing into a reliable runner and has been getting difficult yards for them.

"McCoy's got the patience and the feel and the vision and all of those things that make a guy a great running back," head coach Andy Reid said.

3 Eagles' defensive line is in a rush

The Eagles boast one of the league's best and most balanced pass rushes, with the league's second-highest number of sacks with 42.

The team they're behind? The Baltimore Ravens, who in Week 4 sacked Sanchez twice and created four fumbles en route to a 34-17 win.

"You watch them on film — they're flying around. They're getting after everybody," center Nick Mangold said.

KRISTIAN DYER
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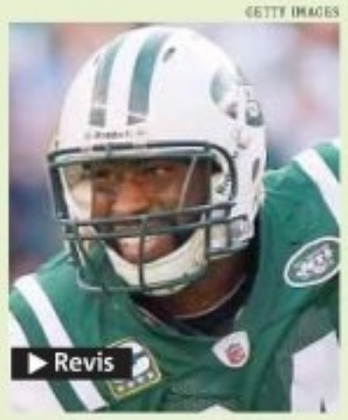
Jets 'D' planning for Vick


Revis
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To paraphrase the irreverent Dan Patrick on SportsCenter: "You can't control Michael Vick, you can only hope to contain him."

The Eagles quarterback is having a down year, but his reputation as a playmaker is not being questioned by the Jets, who see the quarterback as the key to the game this Sunday.

"Contain Michael Vick, that's the focal point for us this week, to just contain him," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "Over the top in the passing game and also on the ground running the ball."

A rib injury forced Vick to miss two games this year, but he did lead an efficient Eagles offense this past Sunday to a win in Miami.

"He's a great athlete and can make every cut known to man. You watch film on him, the play is designed to go one way and he cuts back all the way back to the other side of the field. He does a good job of making the first defender miss so you got to have 11 guys watching him and run to the ball every play," Jets linebacker David Harris said. "You can't afford to take a play off." METRO/KD

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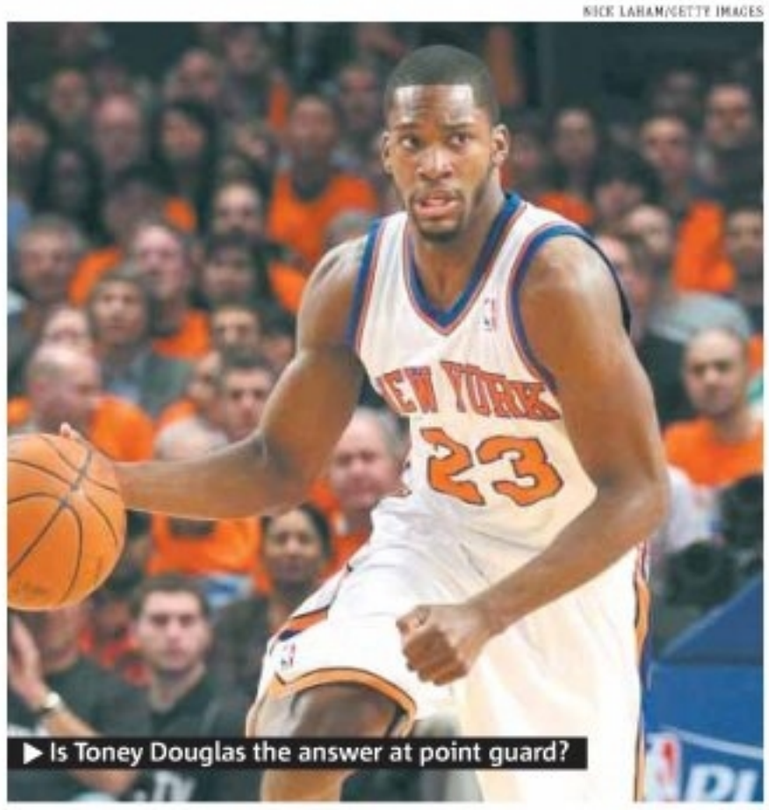

▶ Is Toney Douglas the answer at point guard?

Knicks, Nets open season

Preseason begins Saturday as New York-area teams shake off rust
Do the Knicks have a point guard?

It may not be the real thing quite yet, but after a prolonged offseason the NBA finally gets under way this weekend as preseason games tip-off.

The Knicks cross the Hudson River on Saturday as they test out their new Big Three — Carmelo Anthony, Amar'e Stoudemire and the newly signed Tyson Chandler.

But the real question for the Knicks won't be about any of the stars. It will be who starts at point guard.

In order to sign Chandler they cut Chauncey Billups free. That means they'll be testing Toney Douglas and veteran Mike Bibby at the position.

The Nets, meanwhile, kick off their final season in New Jersey with no Dwight Howard. For now, at least, it will be a chance for Deron Williams to continue to work on his chemistry with Brook Lopez. METRO

On TV Saturday
Knicks at Nets
2 p.m., YES/MSG

Bears' WR busted in drug deal

Bears wide receiver Sam Hurd is in a whole lot of trouble with the law.

Hurd was arrested yesterday on federal drug charges and was reportedly involved in dealing large quantities of cocaine and marijuana.

He was arrested by undercover agents in Chicago and was charged "with intent to distribute 500 grams or more" of cocaine.

According to the criminal complaint, Hurd told an informant he wanted to purchase 10 kilograms of cocaine and 1,000 pounds of marijuana per week.

Homeland Security first started investigating Hurd last July, when he was a member of the Cowboys.

Hurd signed a contract with the Bears before the season for three years, $5.15 million. He now faces up to 40 years in prison. METRO

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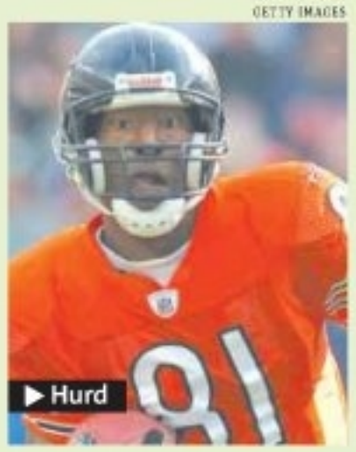

▶ Hurd

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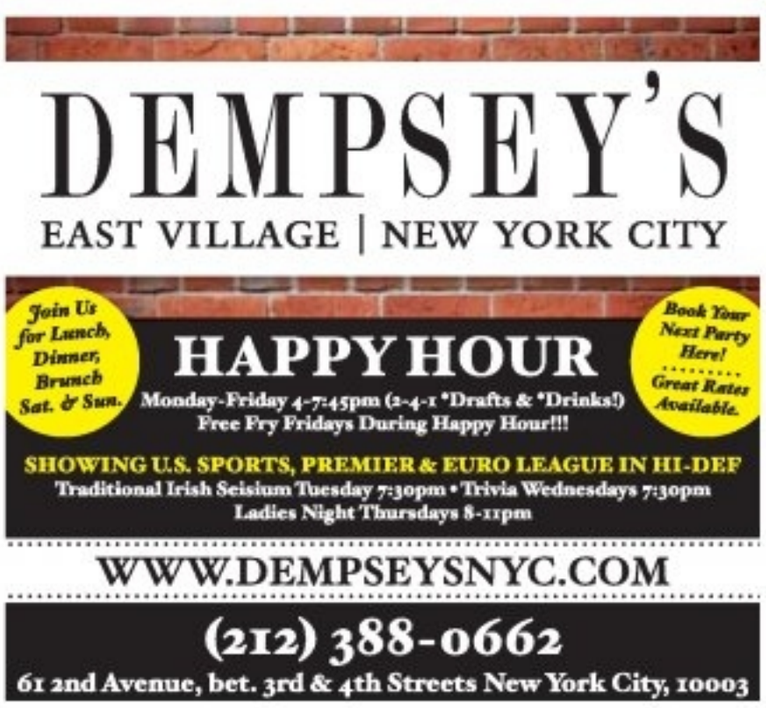
Dallas at Tampa Bay 8:20 p.m.	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
WEEK 15 SUNDAY, DEC. 18			
Miami at Buffalo 1 p.m.	Buffalo	Miami	Miami
Seattle at Chicago 1 p.m.	Seattle	Chicago	Seattle
Carolina at Houston 1 p.m.	Carolina	Houston	Carolina
Tennessee at Indianapolis 1 p.m.	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Green Bay at Kansas City 1 p.m.	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
New Orleans at Minnesota 1 p.m.	Minnesota	New Orleans	New Orleans
Washington at N.Y. Giants 1 p.m.	Washington	Giants	Giants
Cincinatti at St. Louis 1 p.m.	Cincinatti	St. Louis	St. Louis
Detroit at Oakland 4:05 p.m.	Oakland	Detroit	Detroit
Cleveland at Arizona 4:15 p.m.	Cleveland	Arizona	Arizona
New England at Denver 4:15 p.m.	New England	Denver	New England
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia 4:15 p.m.	Jets	Jets	Jets
Baltimore at San Diego 8:20 p.m.	San Diego	Baltimore	Baltimore
MONDAY, DEC. 19			
Pittsburgh at San Francisco 8:30 p.m.	Pittsburgh	San Francisco	Pittsburgh



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